

An illustration of two young women standing against a bright yellow background. The woman on the left has long black hair and is wearing a blue plaid coat over a green top. The woman on the right has short brown hair and is wearing a red coat over a black top. The title 'Even Though We're Adults' is written in a large, white, cursive font across the middle of the image. Above the title, the text 'Vol. 1' is written in a small, black, sans-serif font, with a large black number '1' below it.

Vol.  
1

# Even Though We're Adults

Story & Art by **Takako Shimura**





# *Even Though We're Adults*

1

*Story & Art by*  
**Takako Shimura**

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## Chapter 1



All right,  
kids! What do  
you want to  
be when you  
grow up?

Someone  
impor-  
tant!

Someone  
like you,  
sensei.

Rich!

Someone  
funny.

A  
bride.

A  
soccer  
player!



I  
WANTED  
HER TO  
LIKE  
ME.

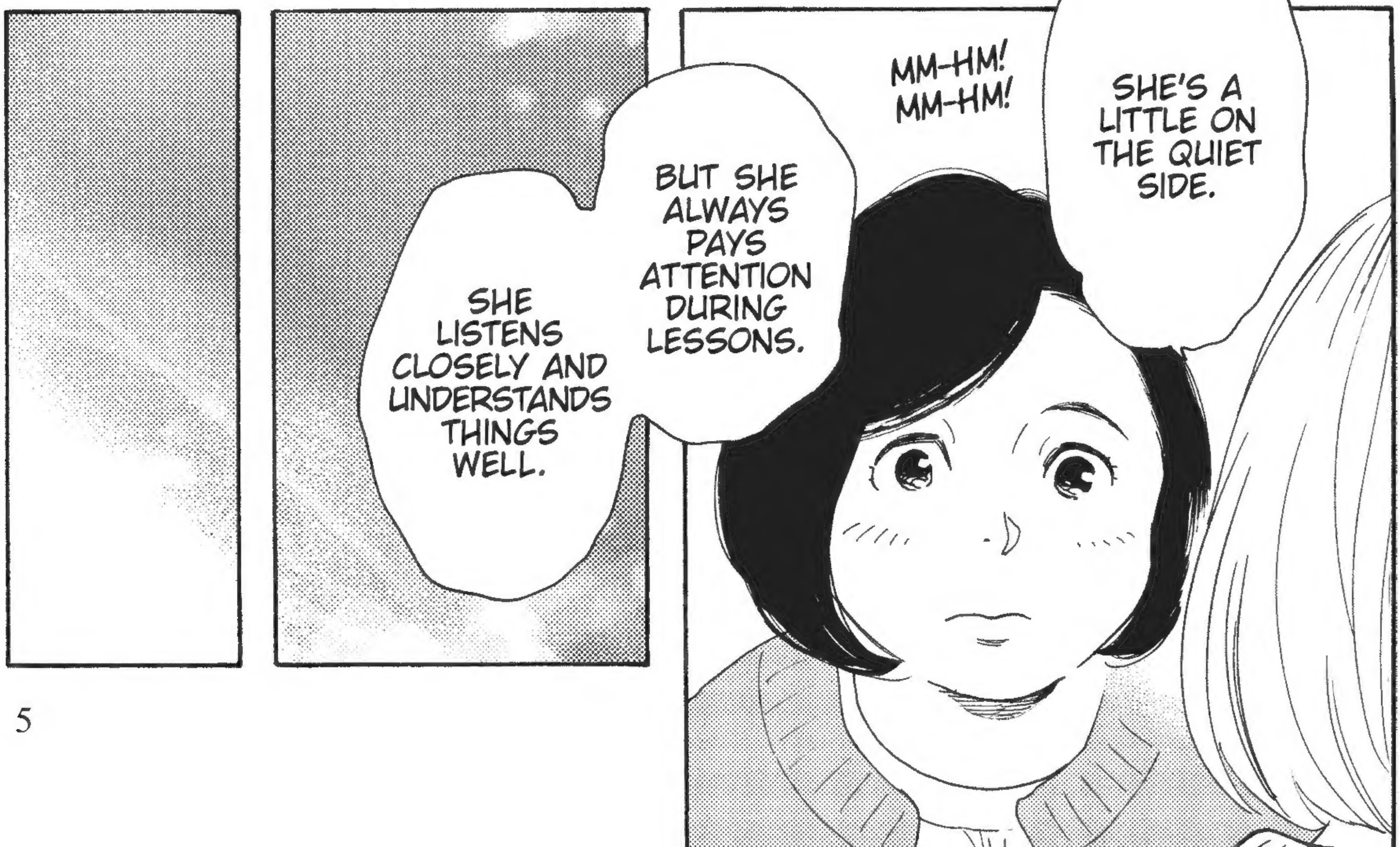
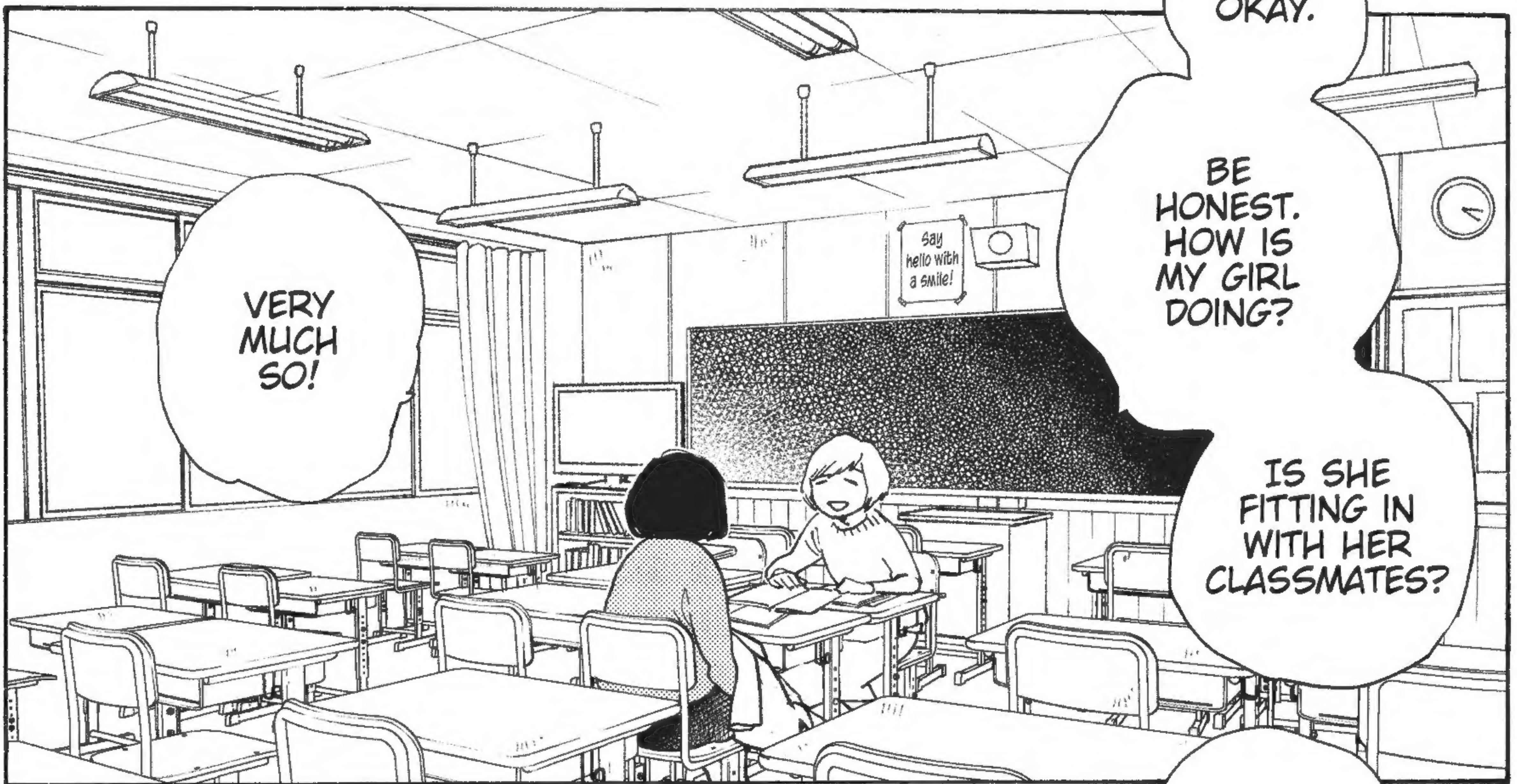
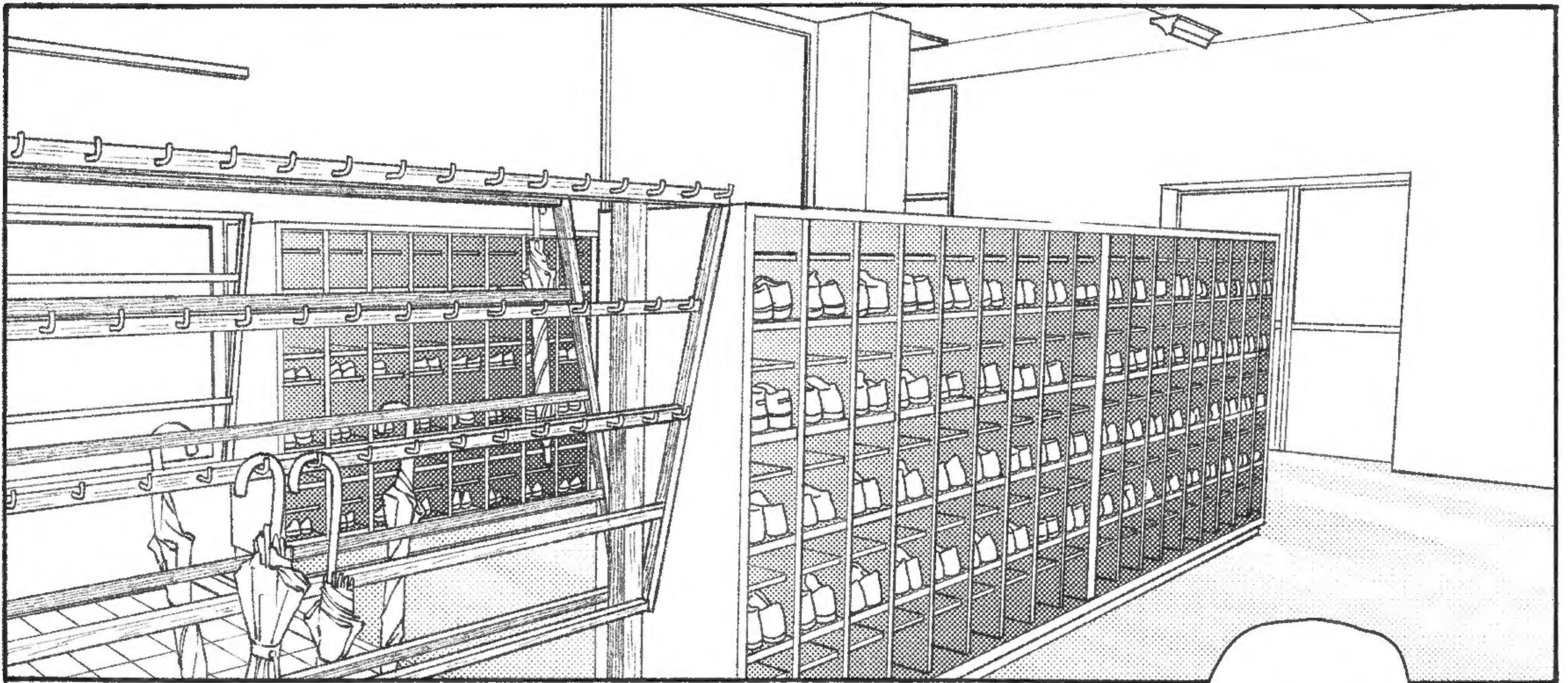
I WAS THE  
ONE WHO  
ANSWERED,  
"SOMEONE  
LIKE YOU,  
SENSEI."



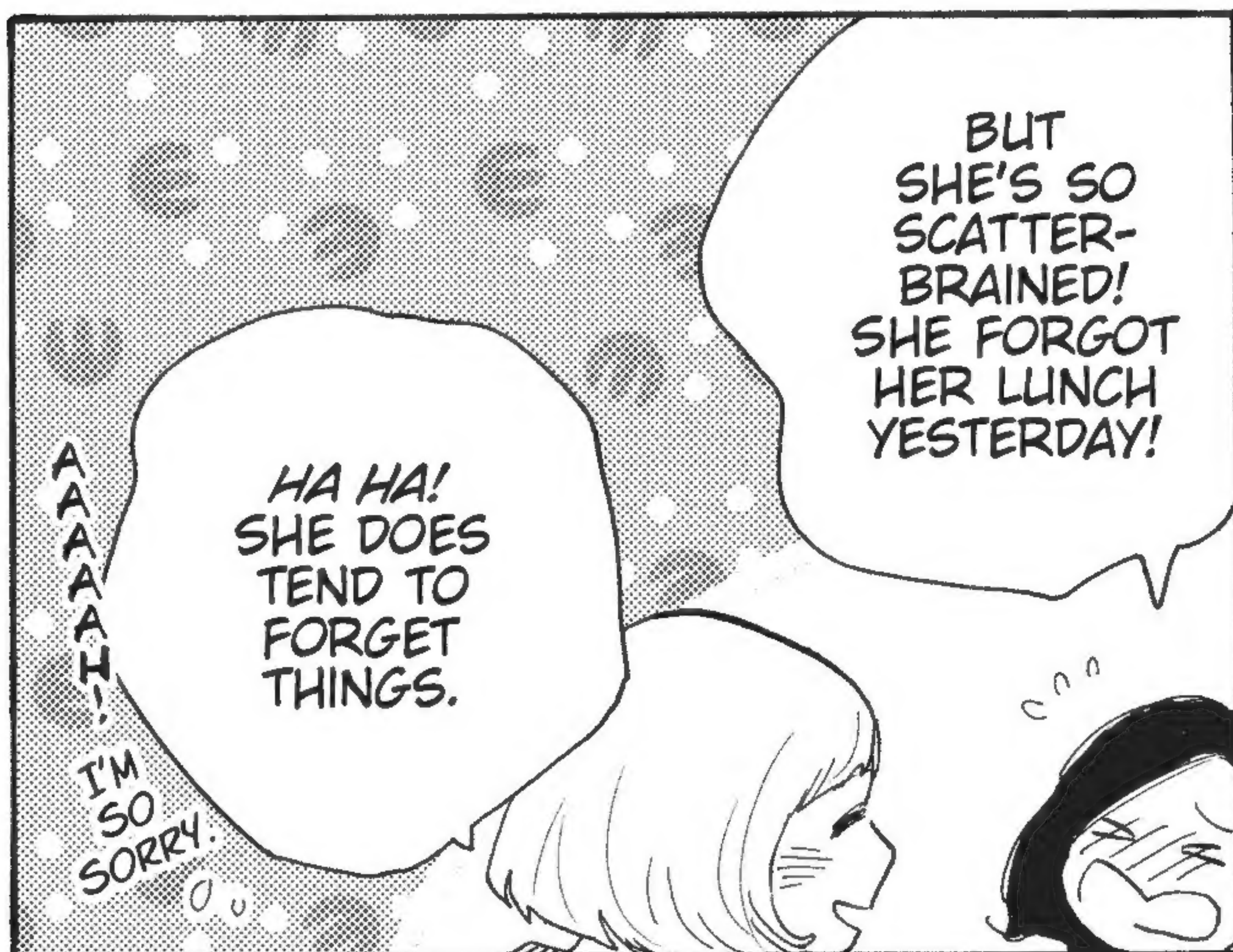


Chapter 1  
**Unwonderful  
Unrequited  
Love**

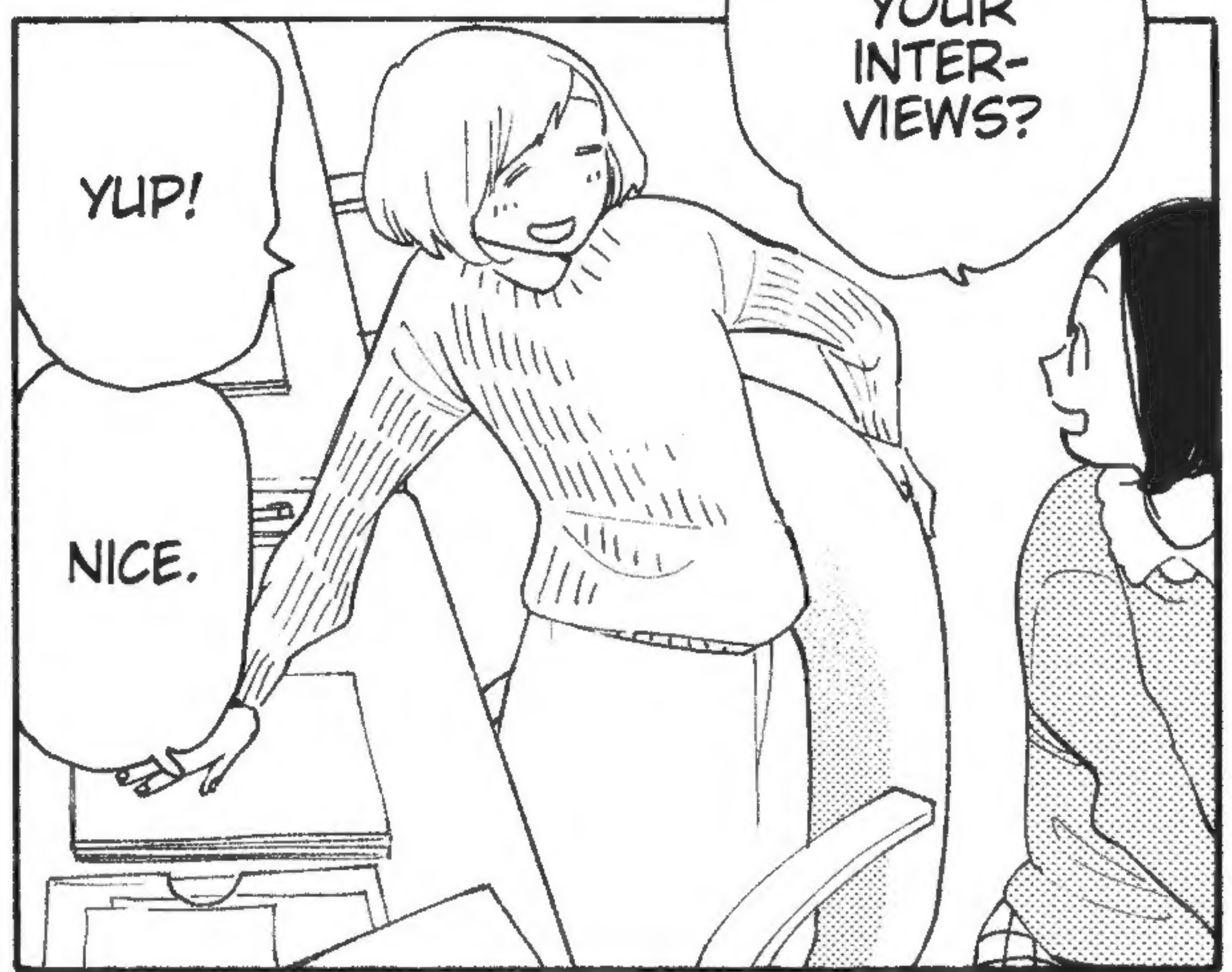
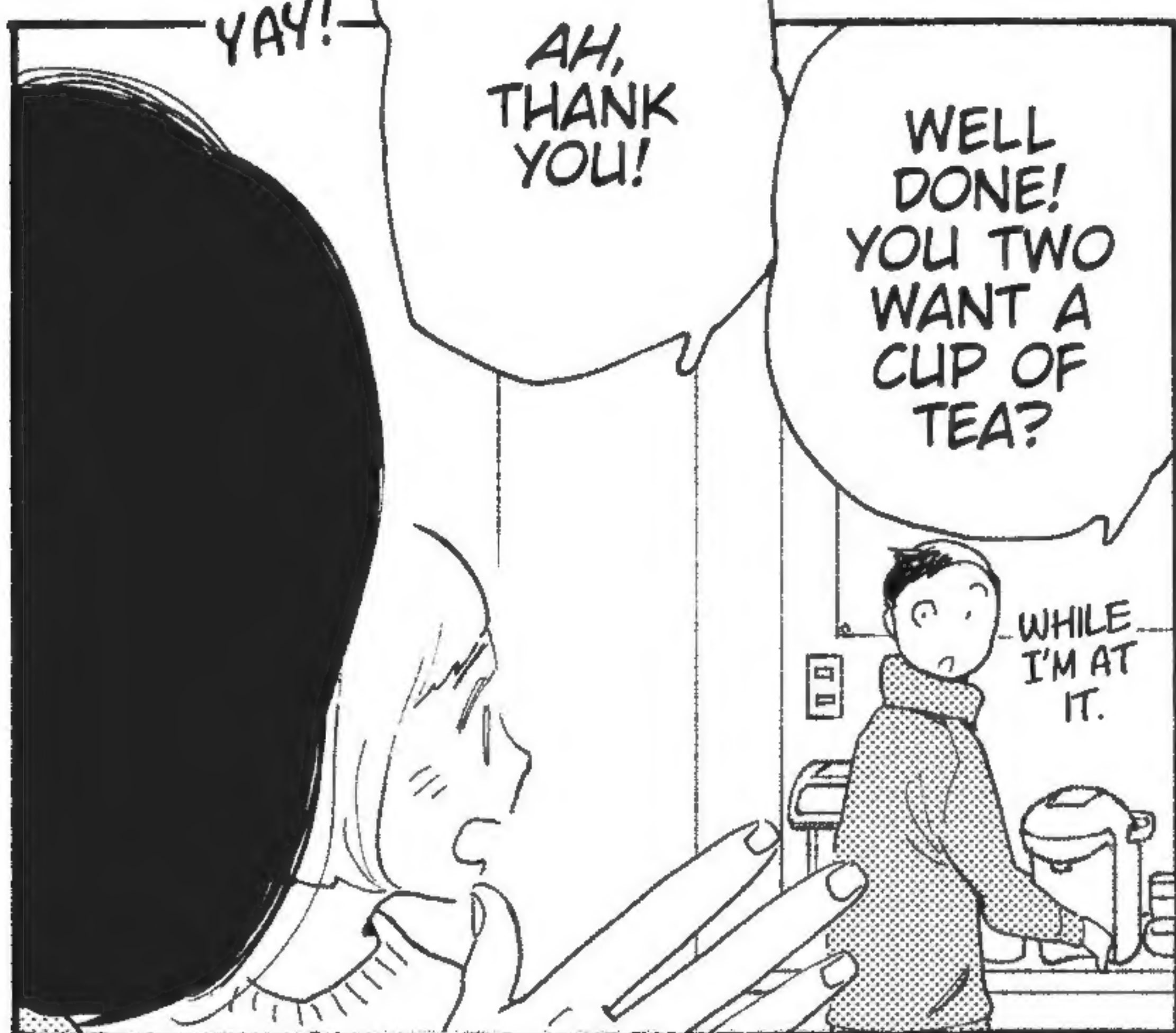




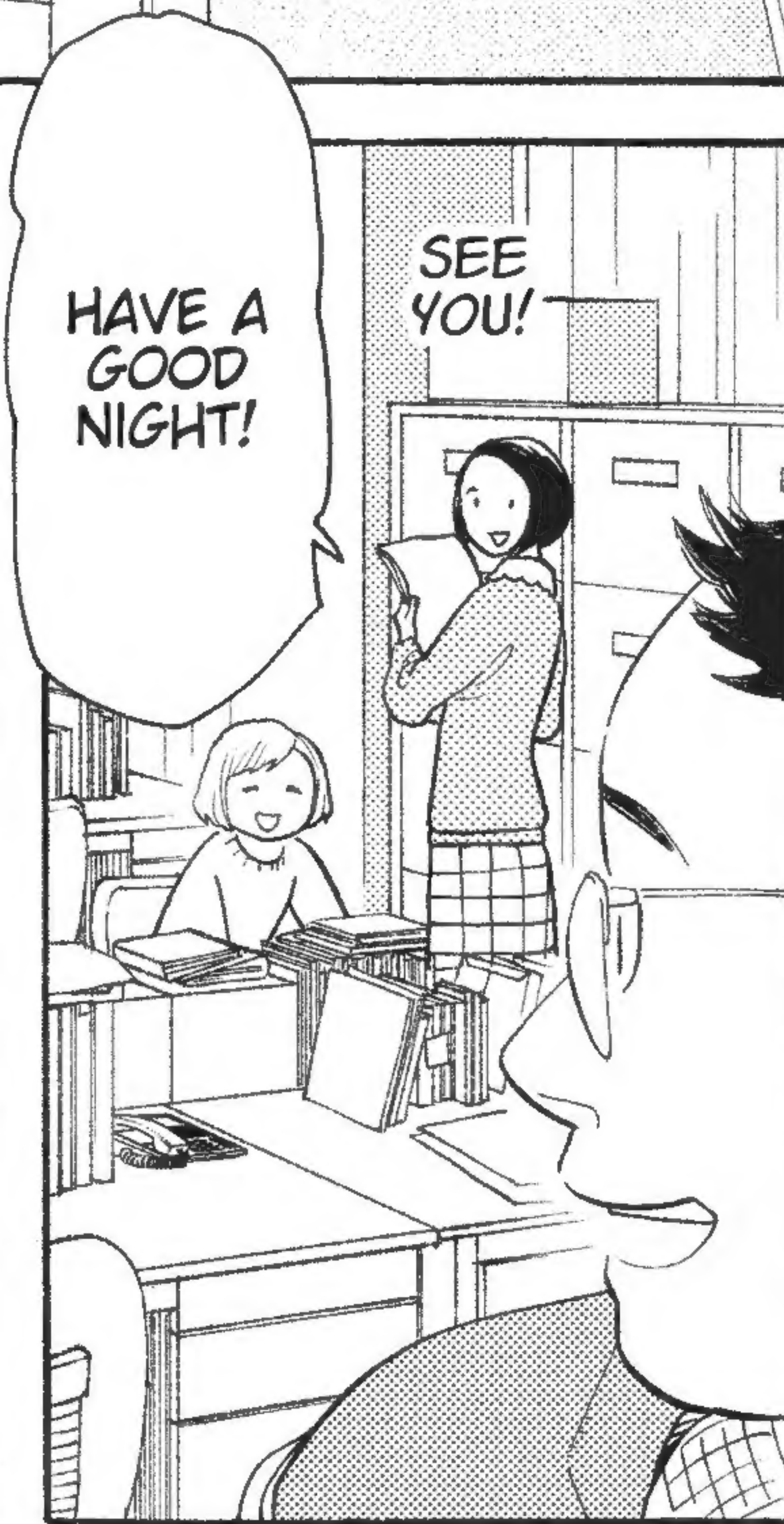
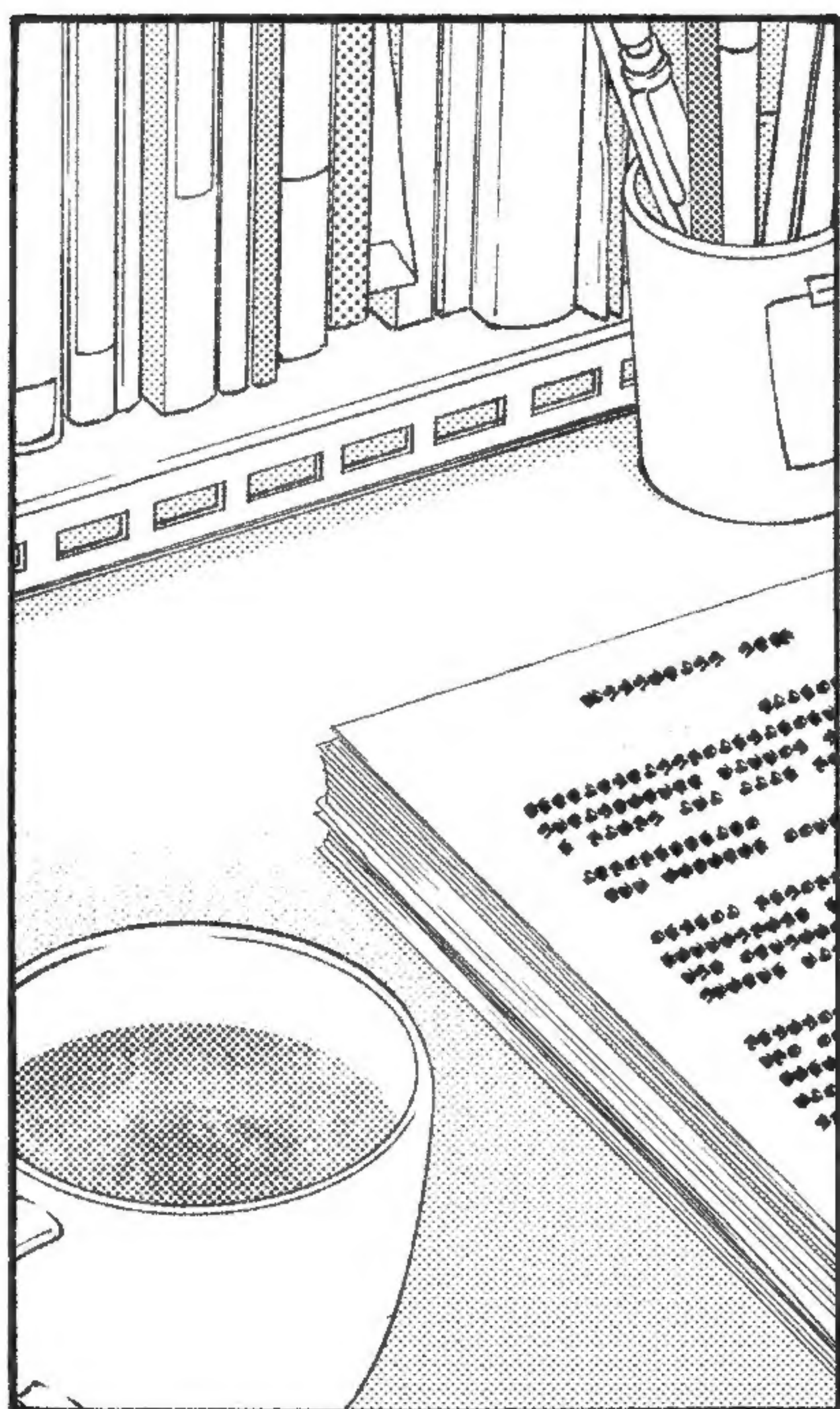
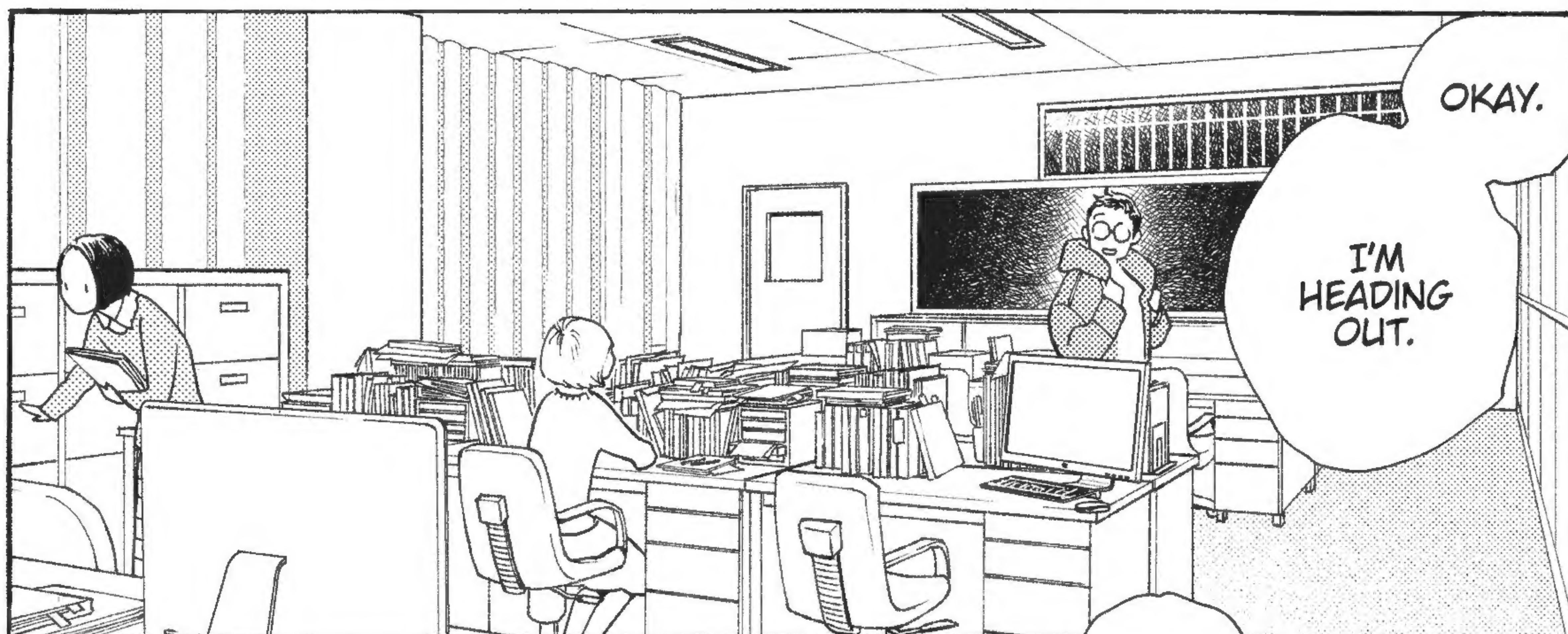
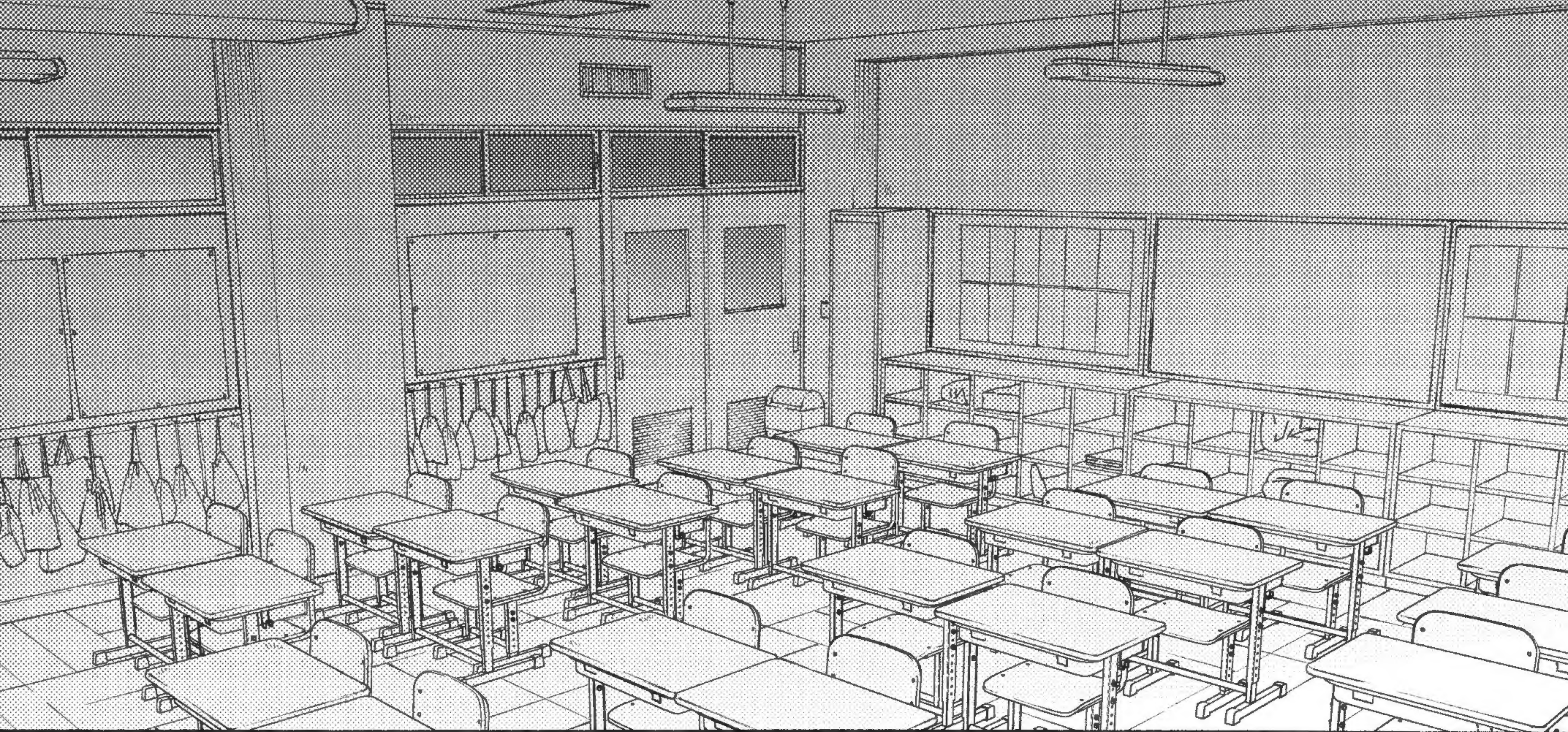




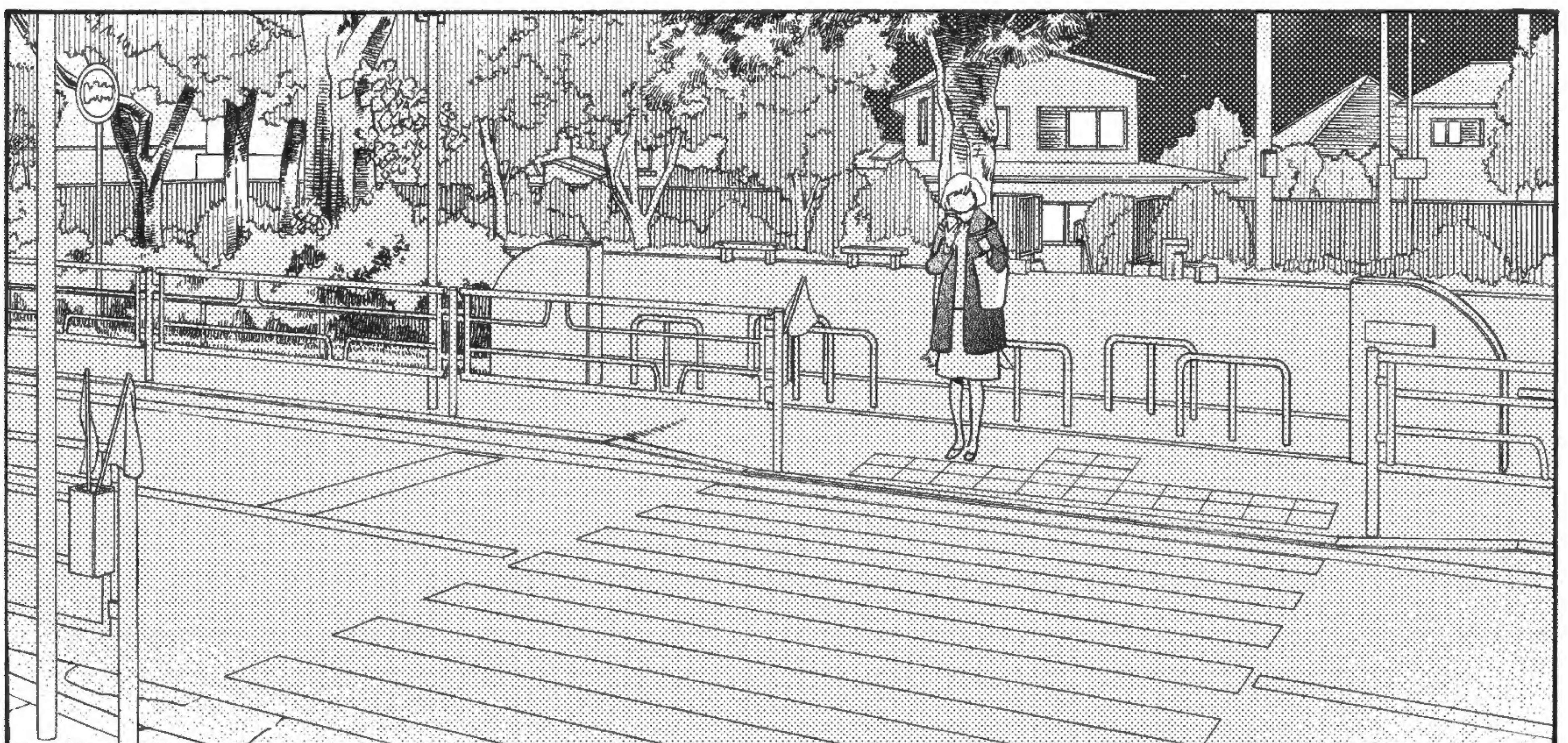




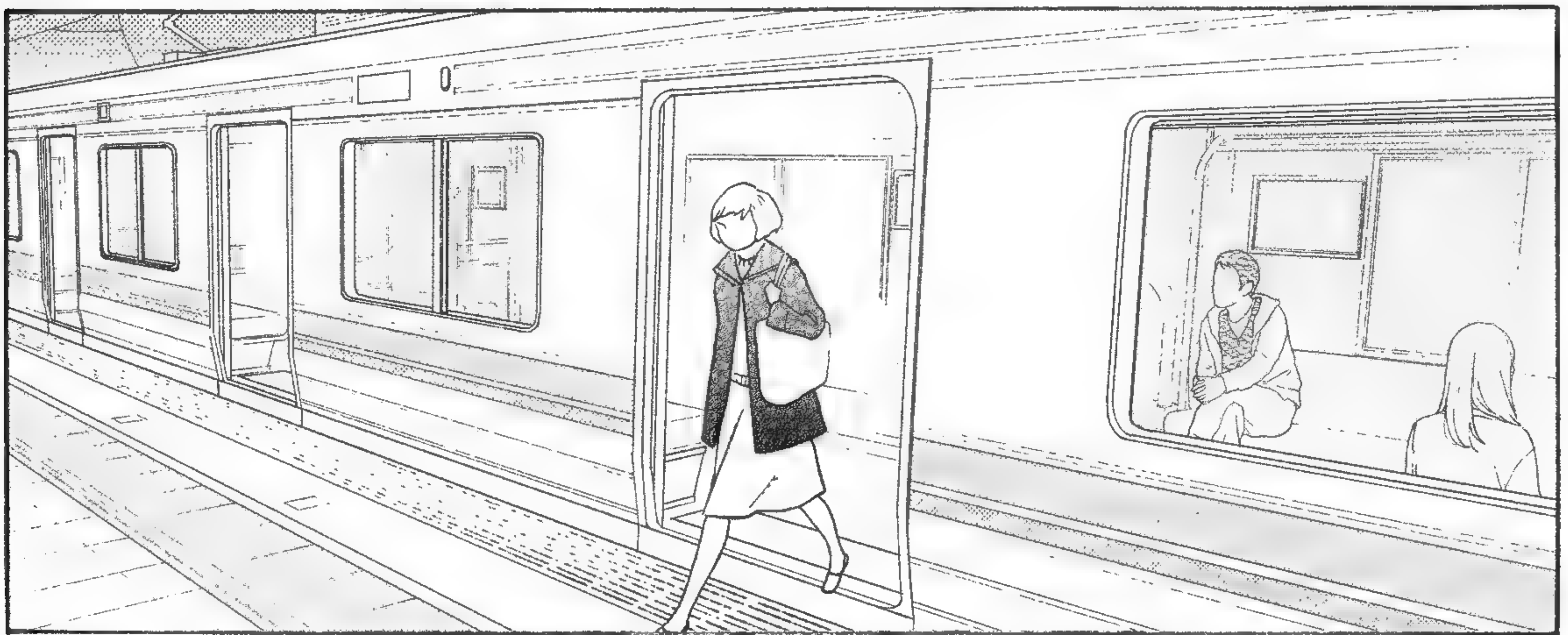
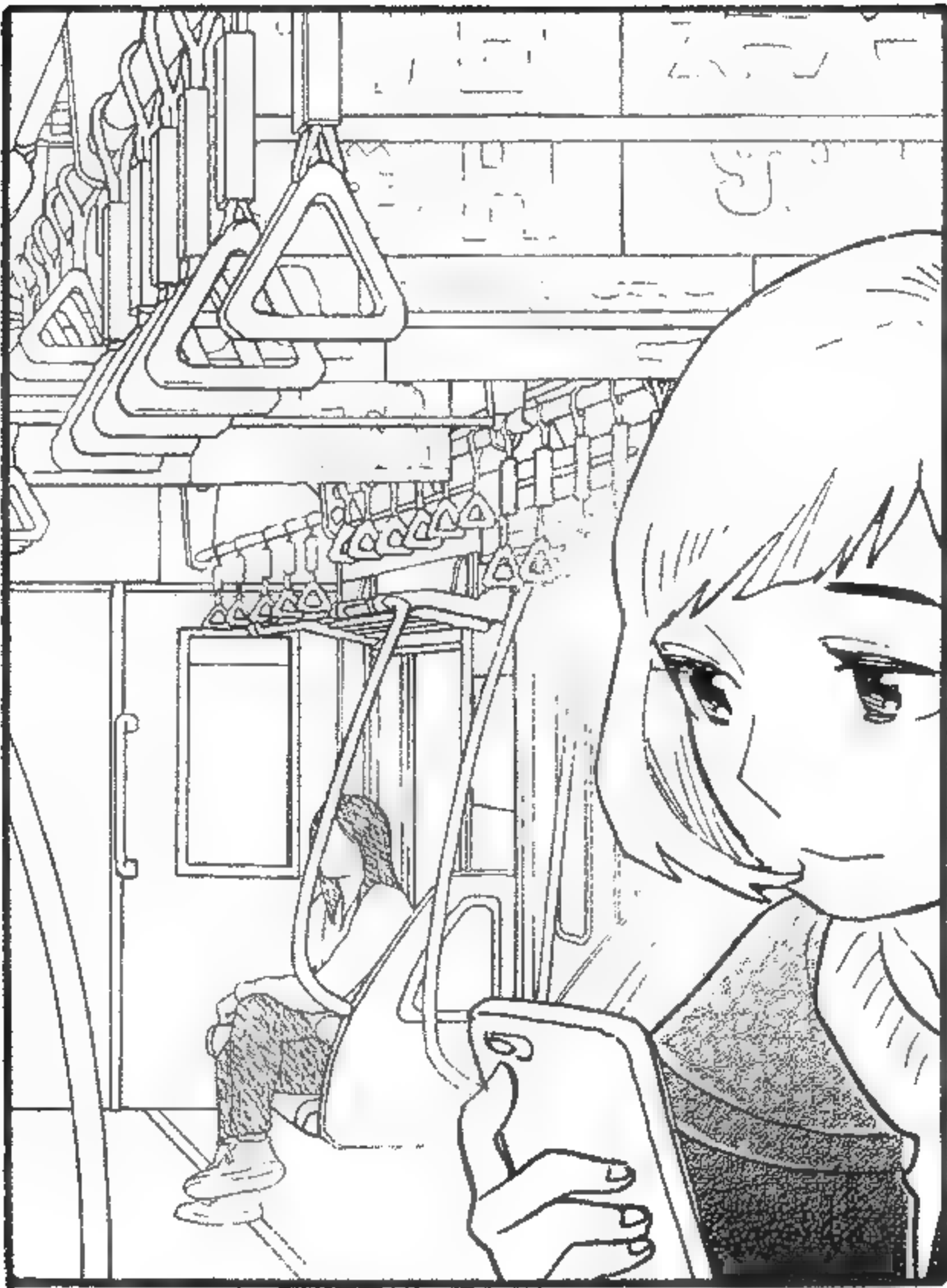








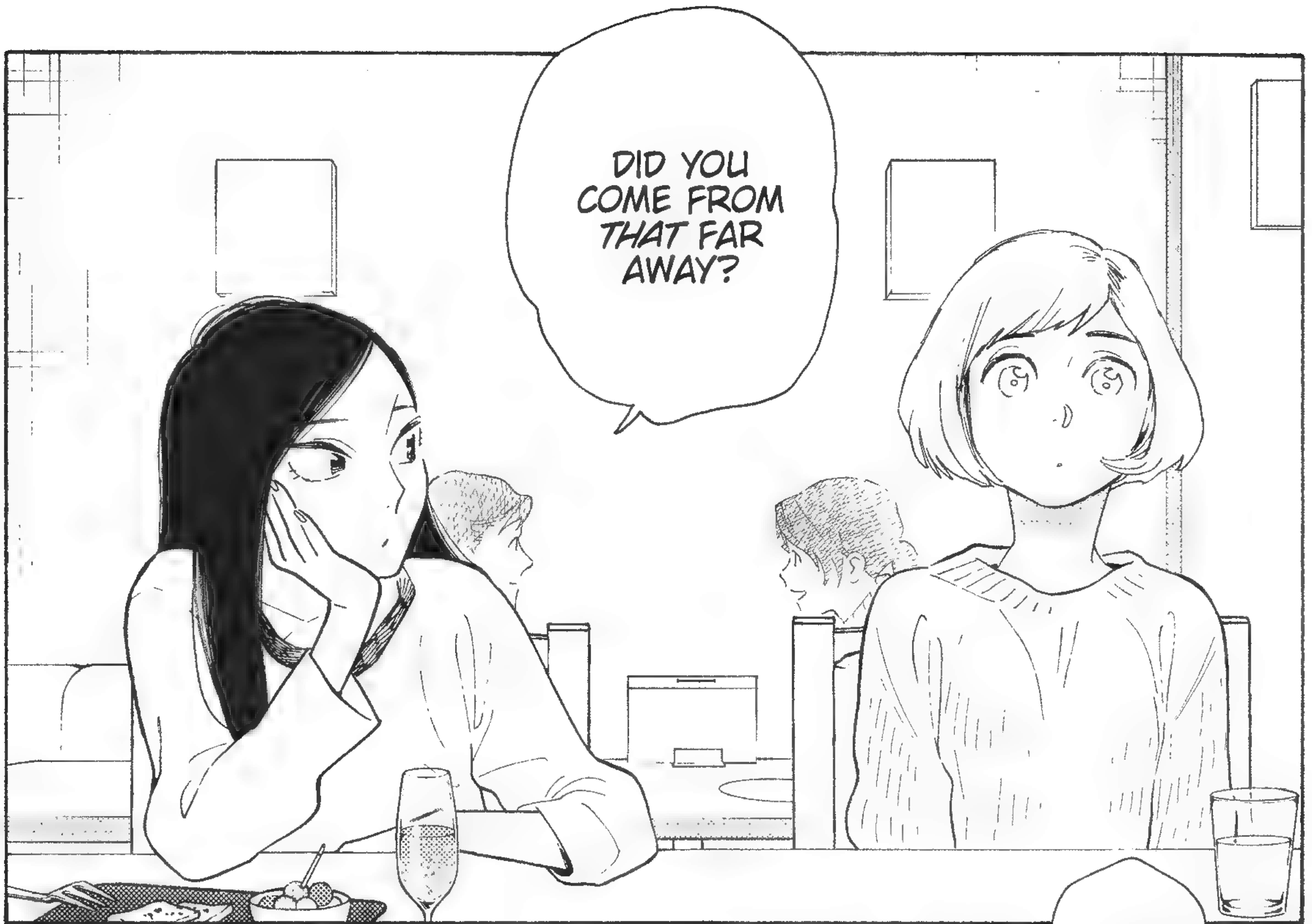




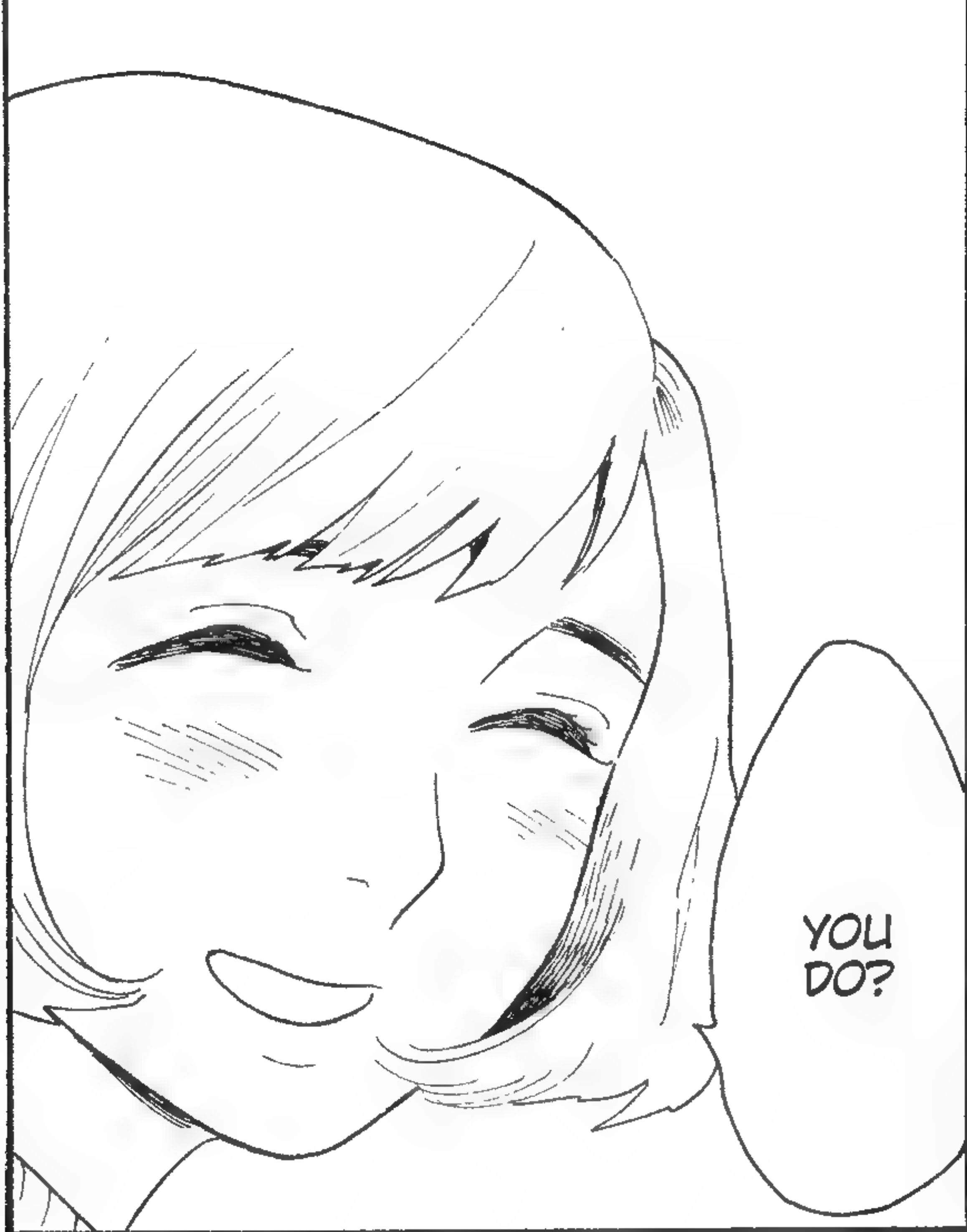












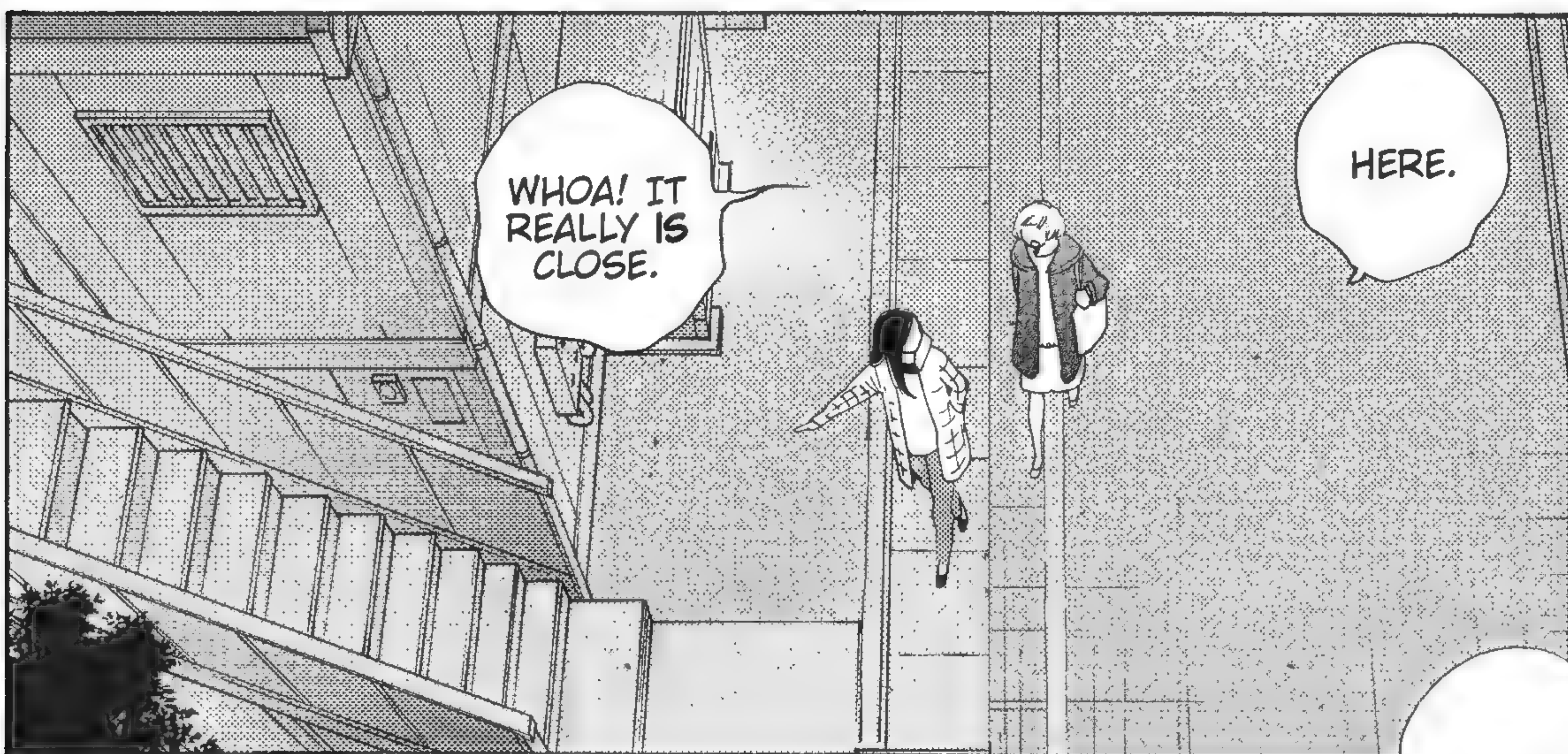




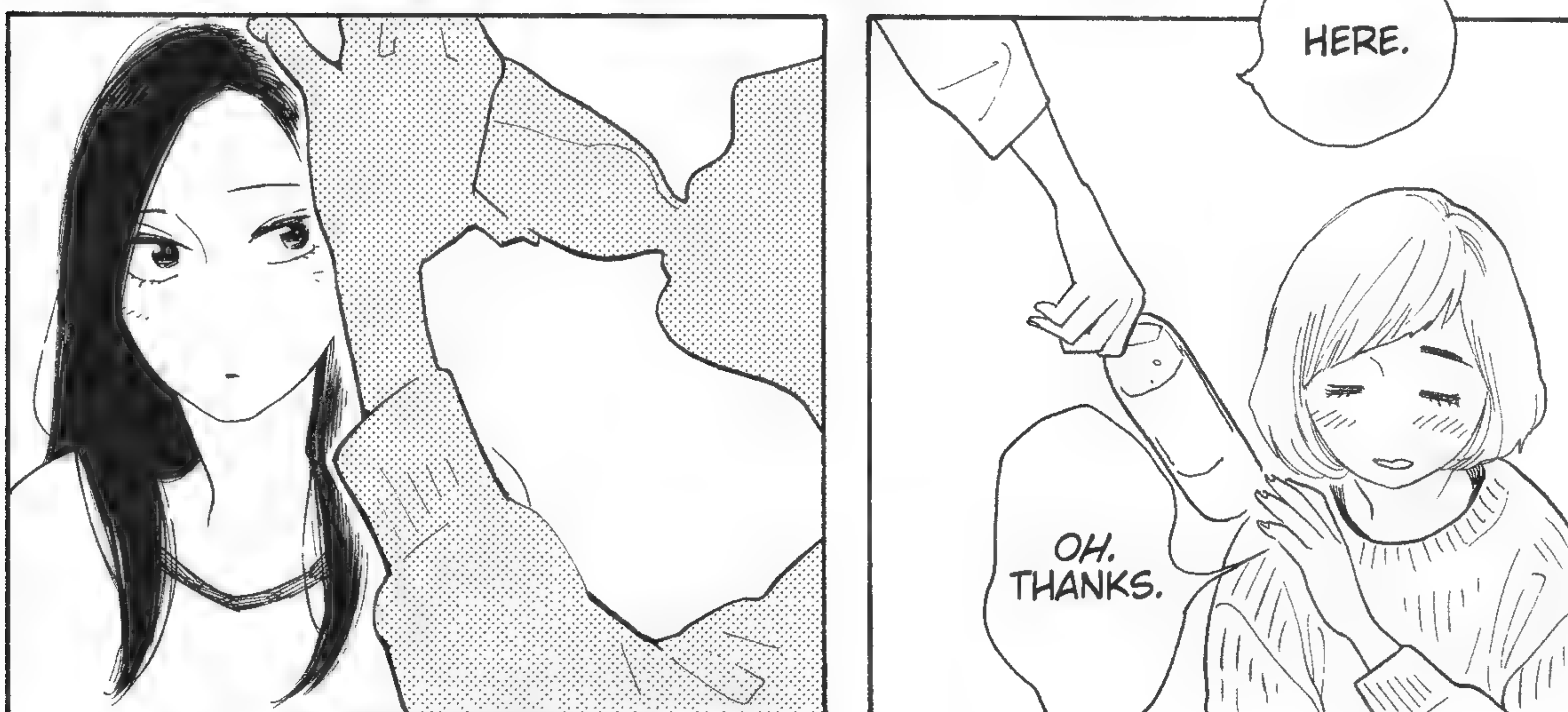
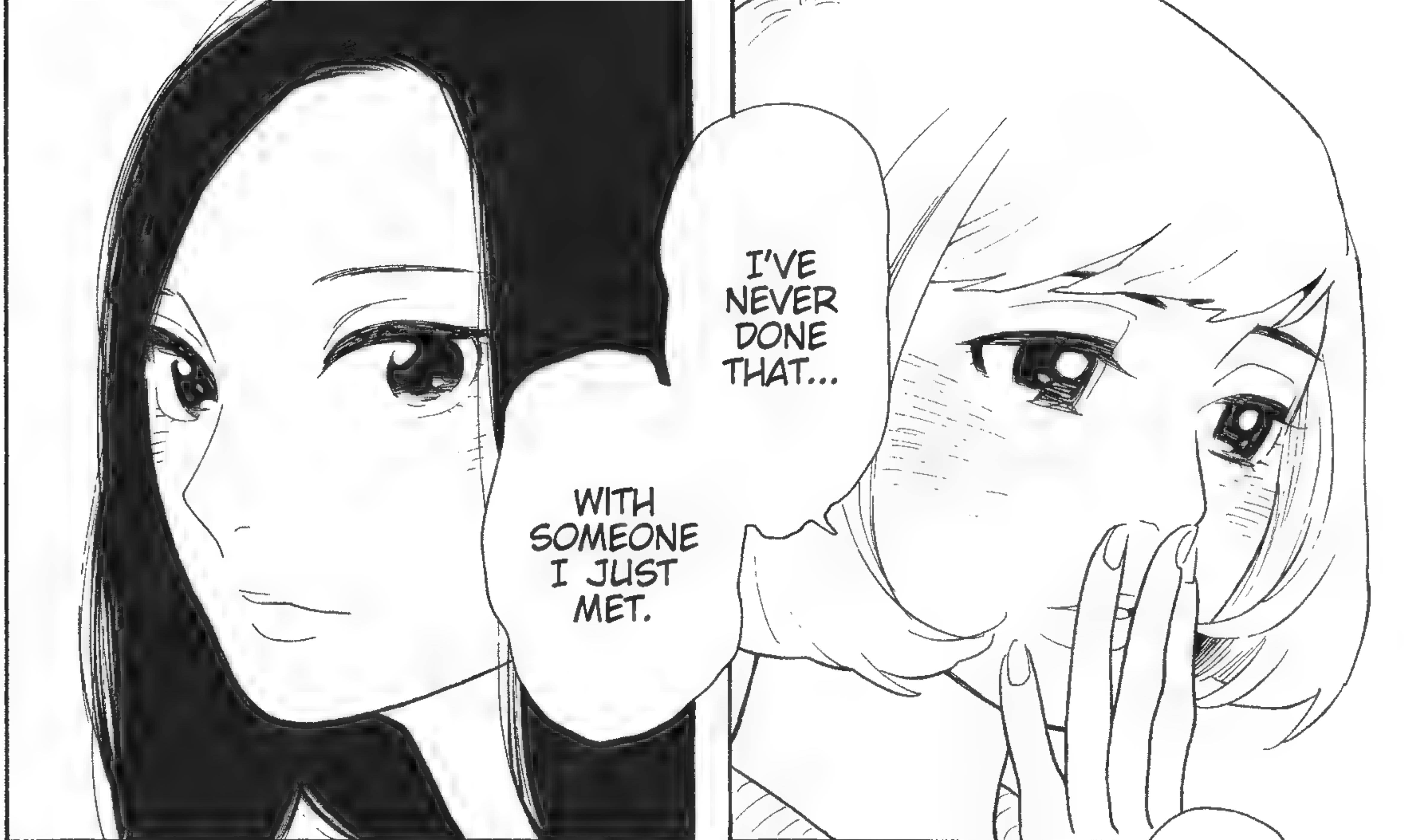




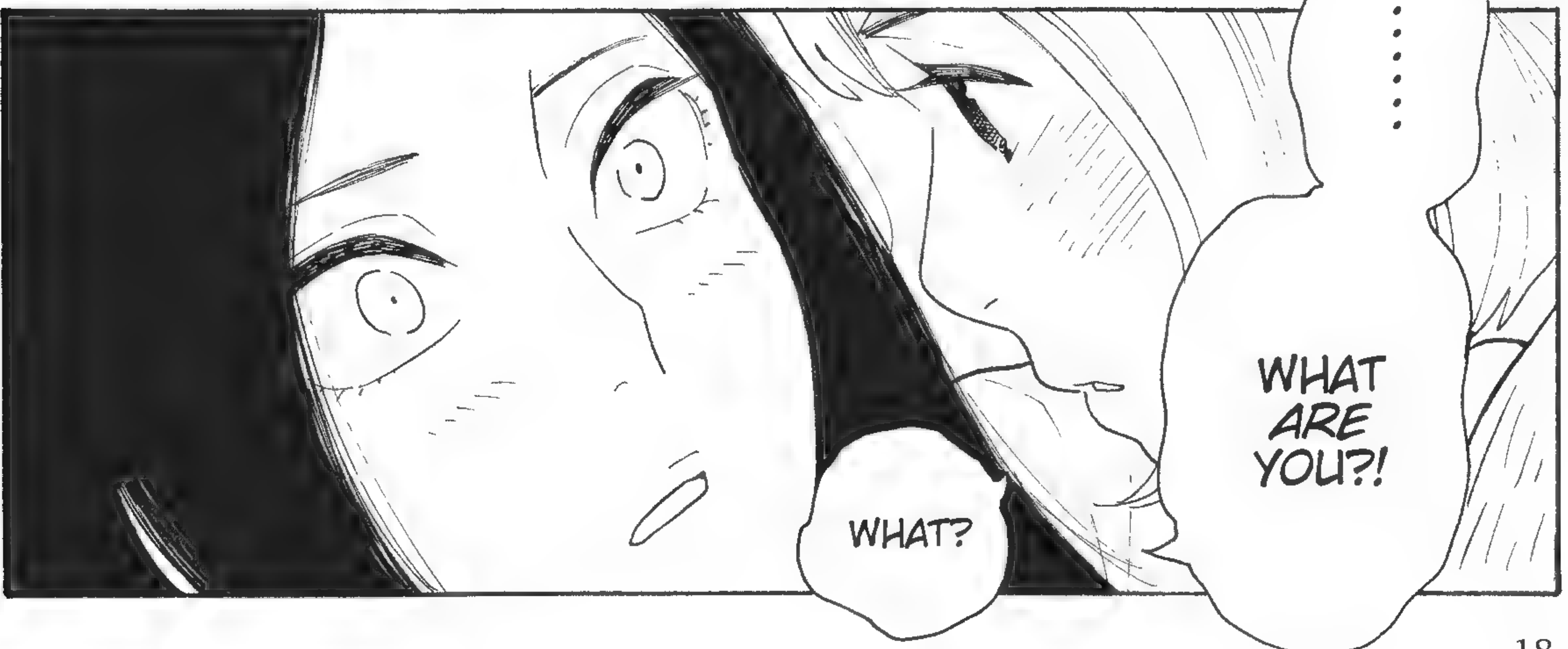
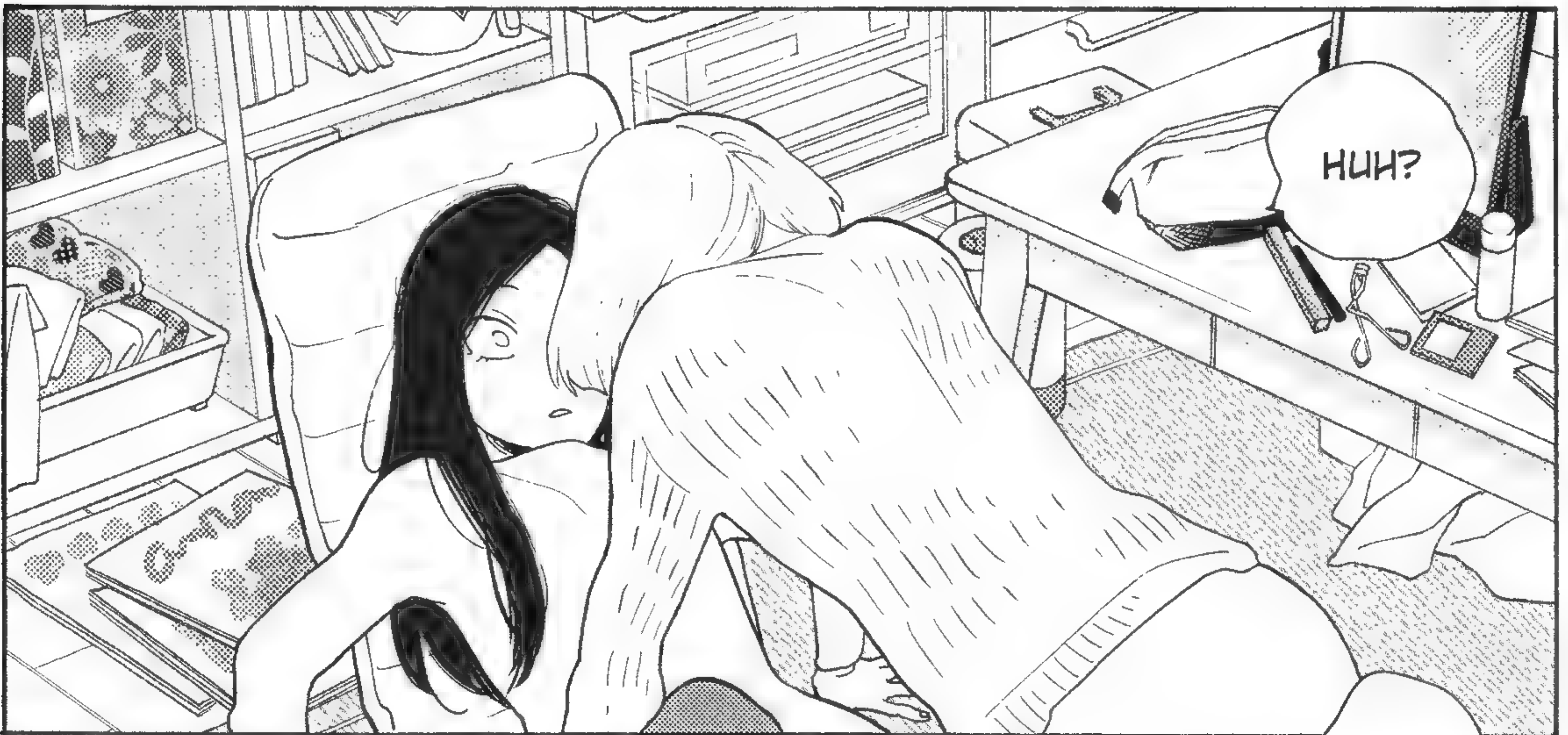




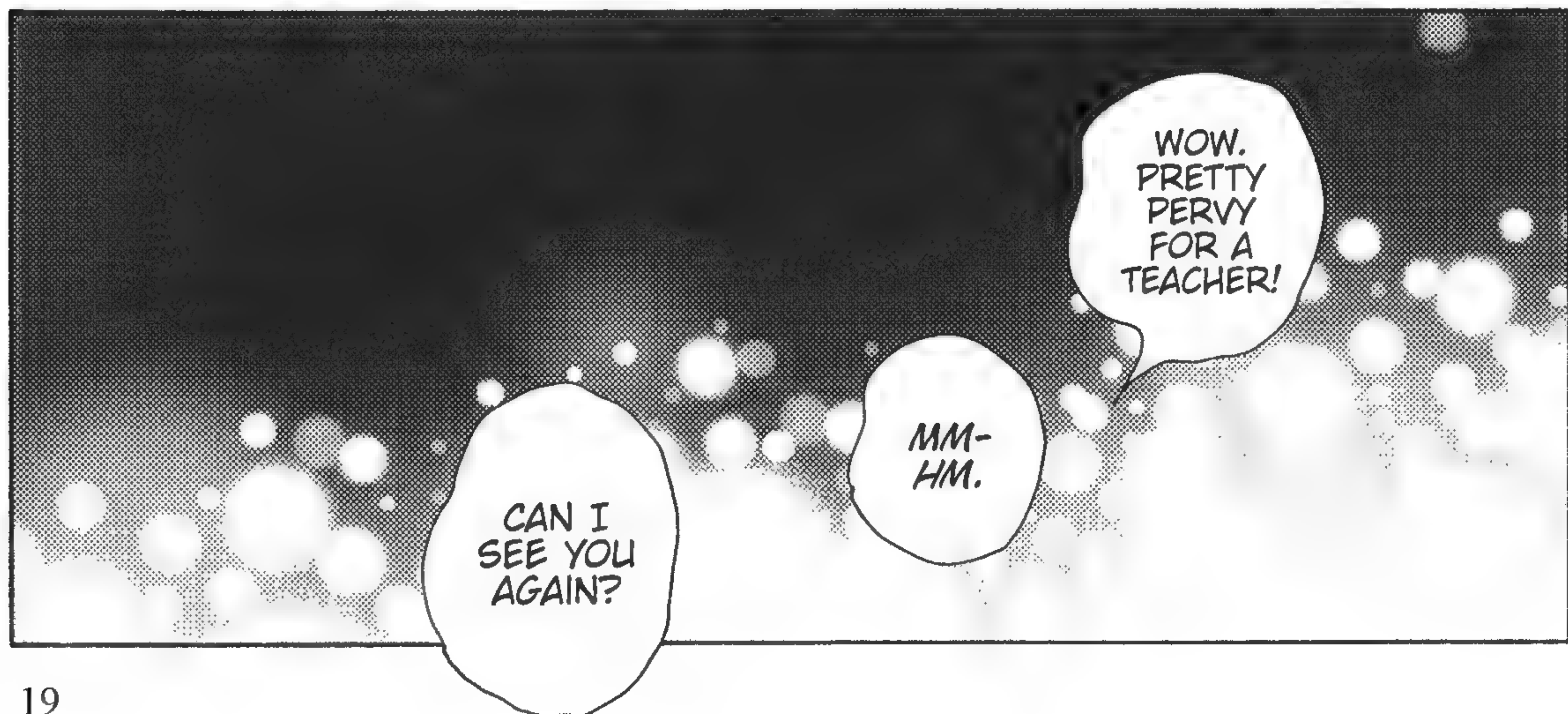
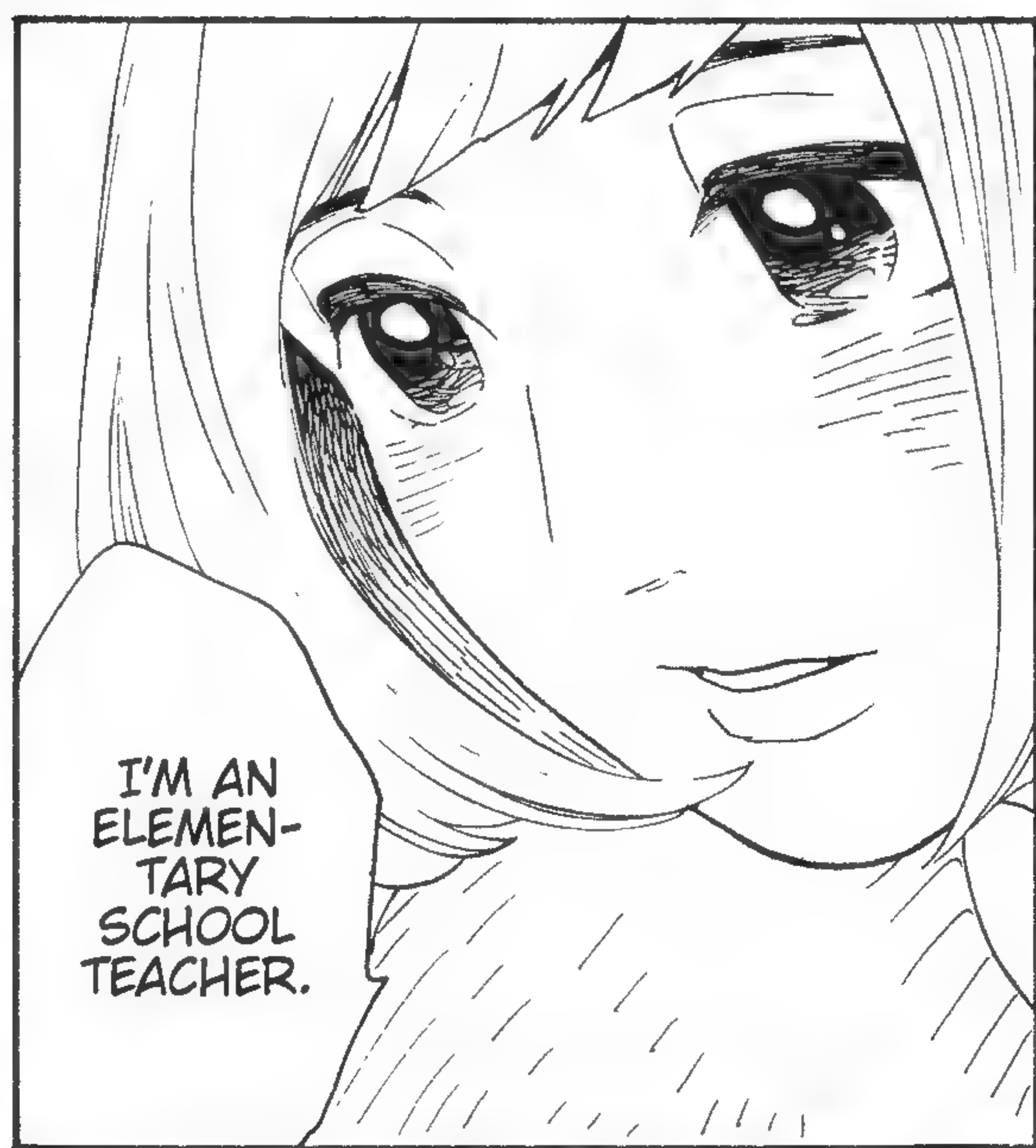




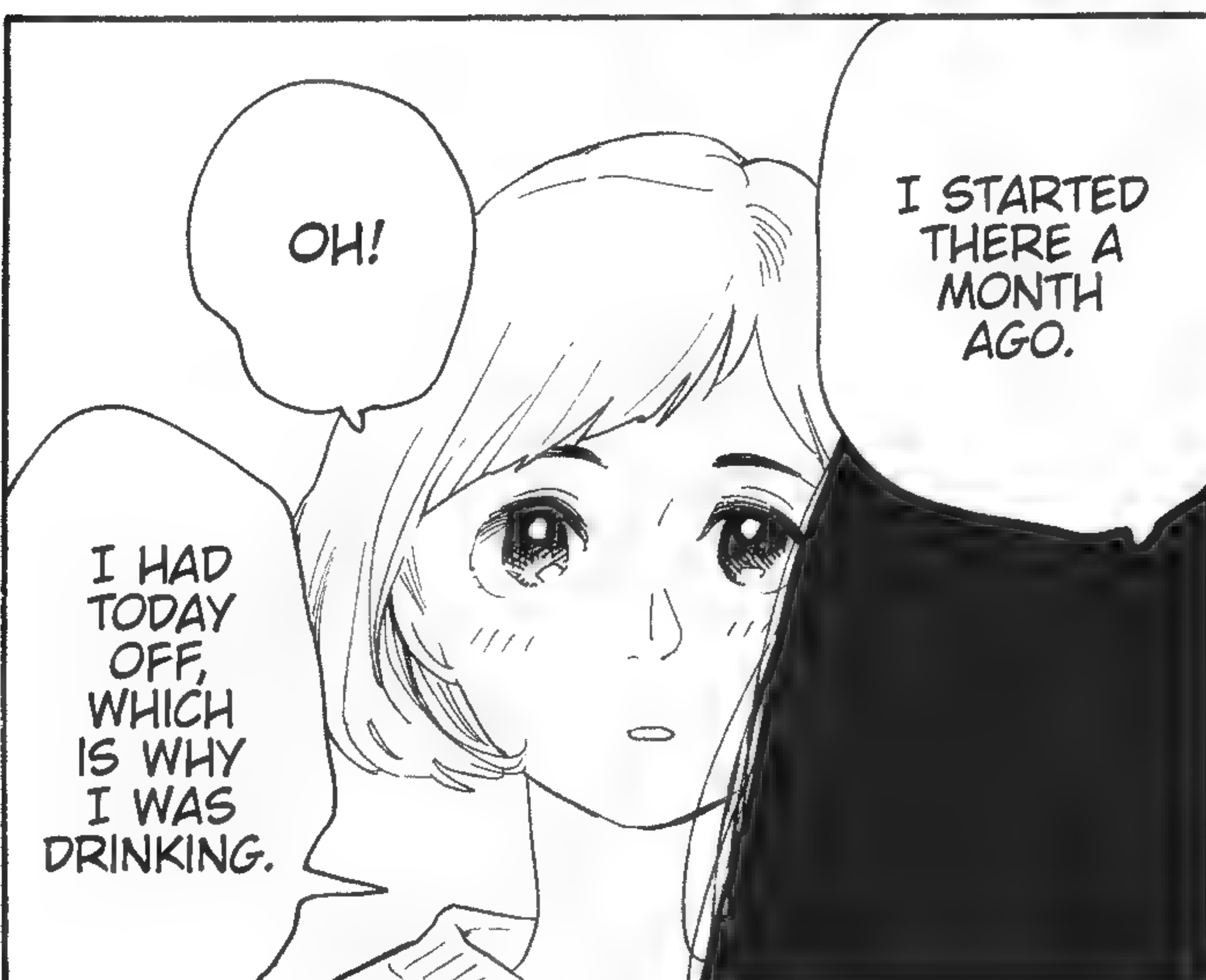
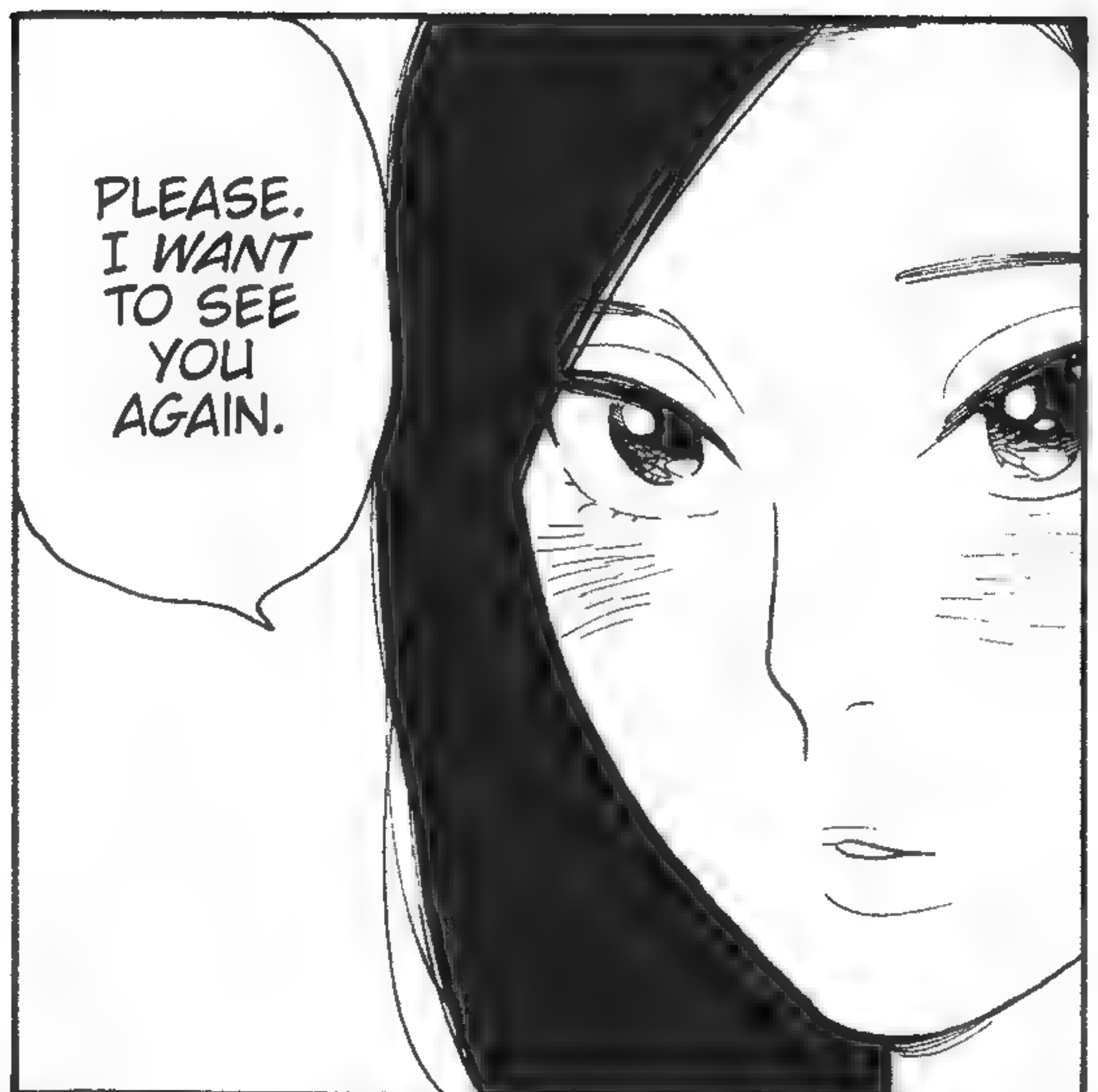




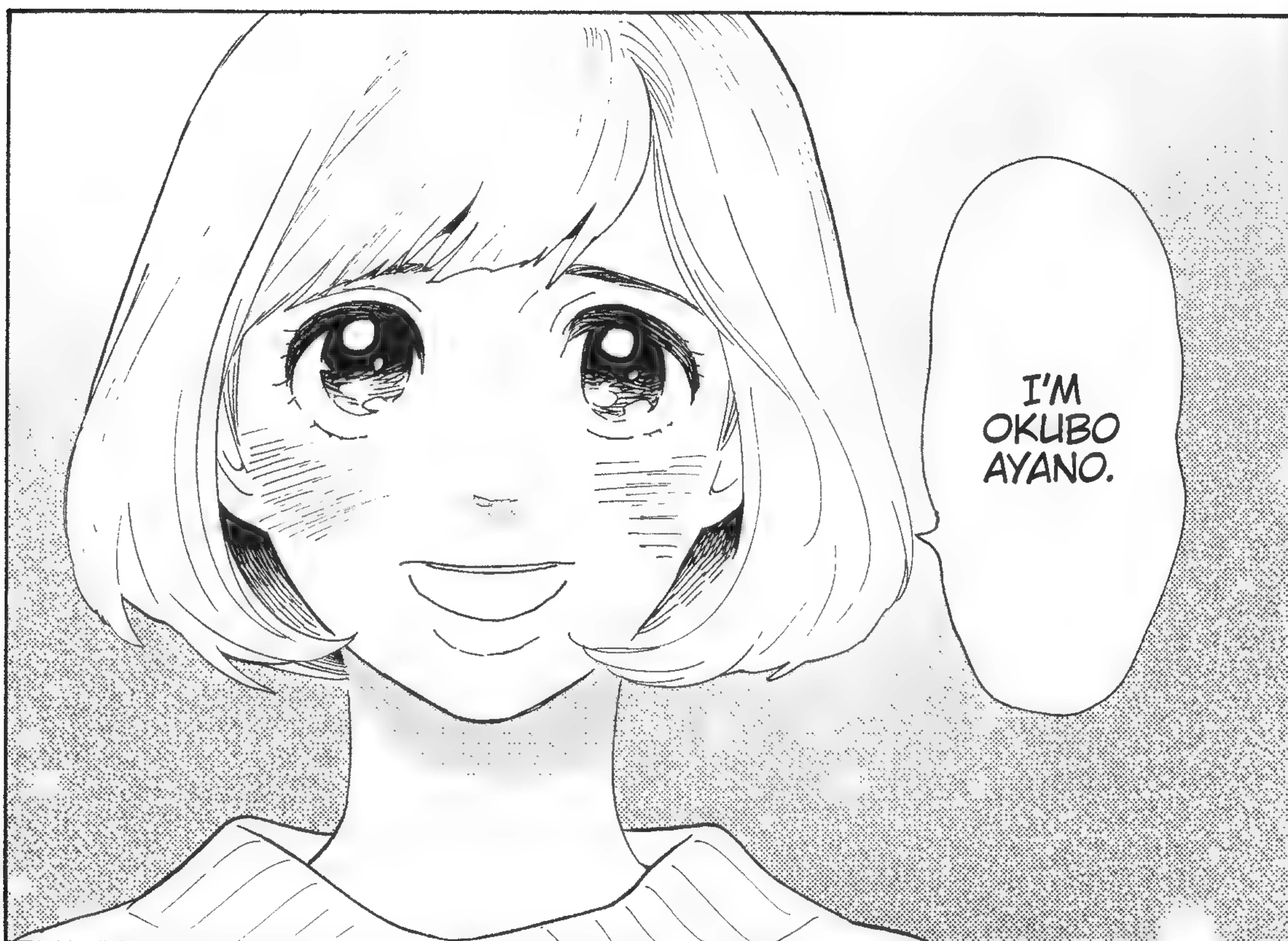
















I GUESS  
YOU CAN  
MEET  
PEOPLE  
LIKE  
THIS.

AH,  
ALTHOUGH  
I DID HAVE  
A FEW  
FLINGS  
LIKE THIS  
BACK IN  
THE DAY.



LETTING  
MYSELF  
GET  
CARRIED  
AWAY  
BY THE  
MOMENT...



LISTEN  
UP.



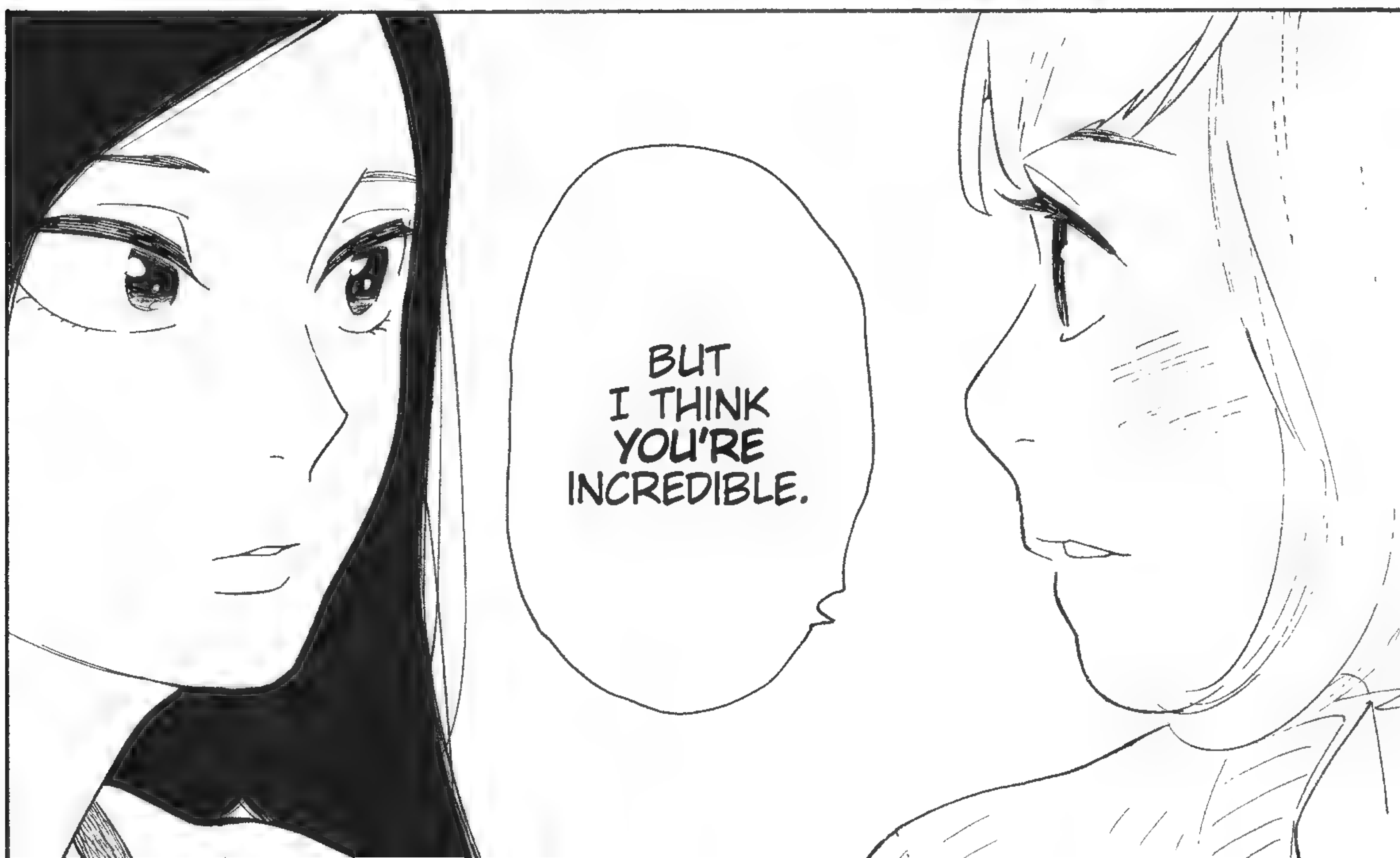
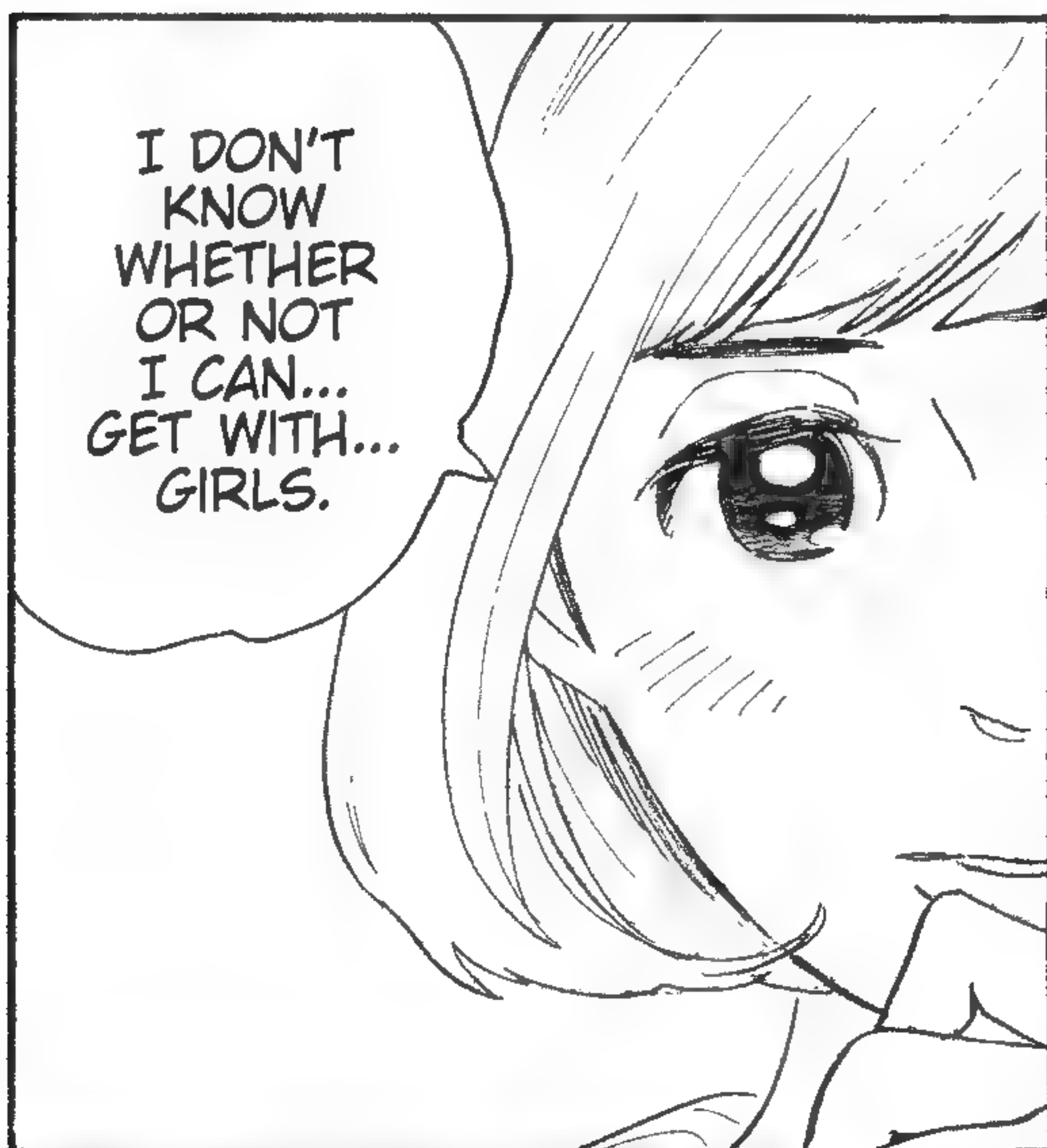
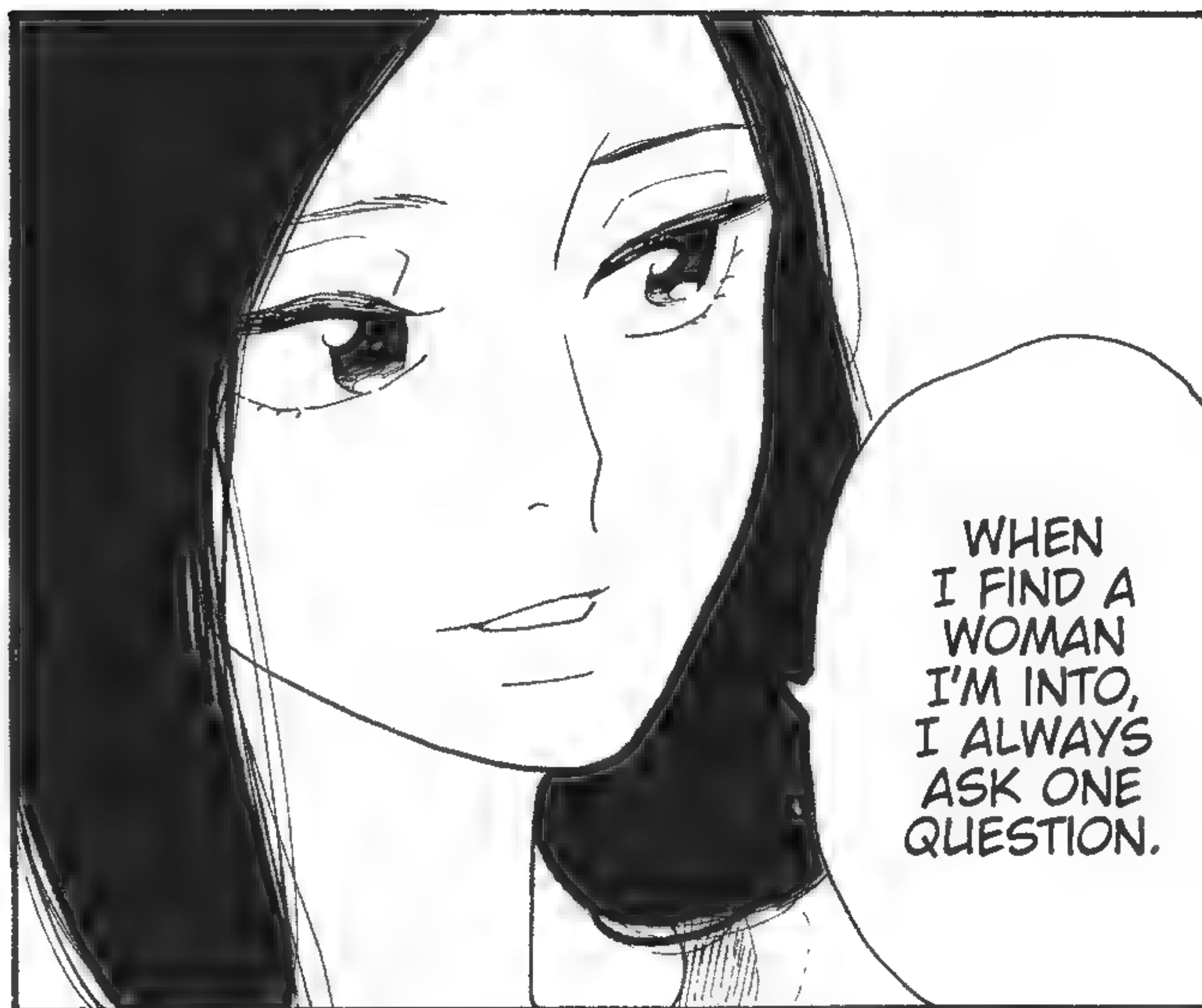
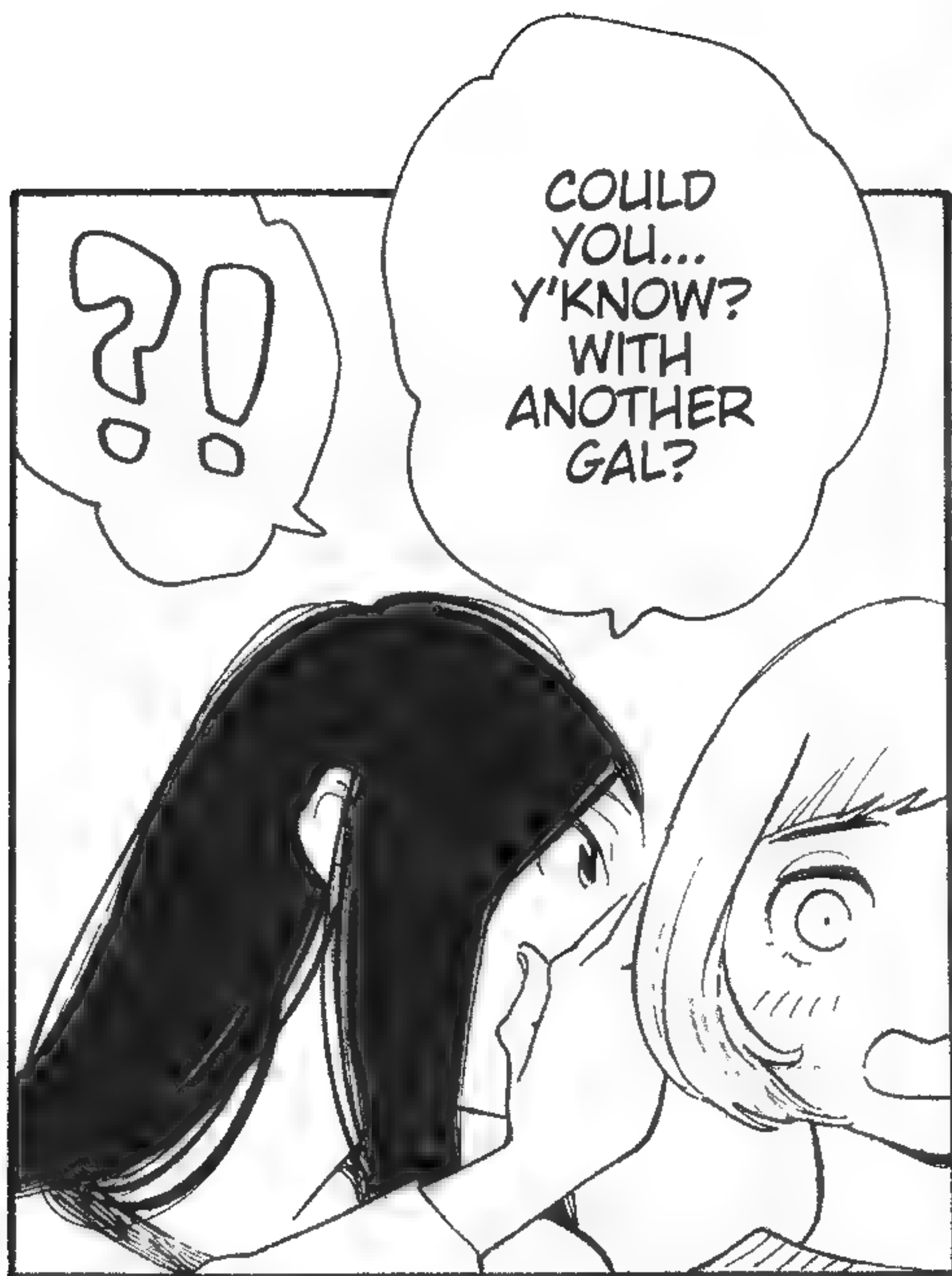
YOU'RE  
KINDA  
MY  
TYPE.

LH-  
HUH?

GURRRRL.

Y'KNOW  
WHAT?



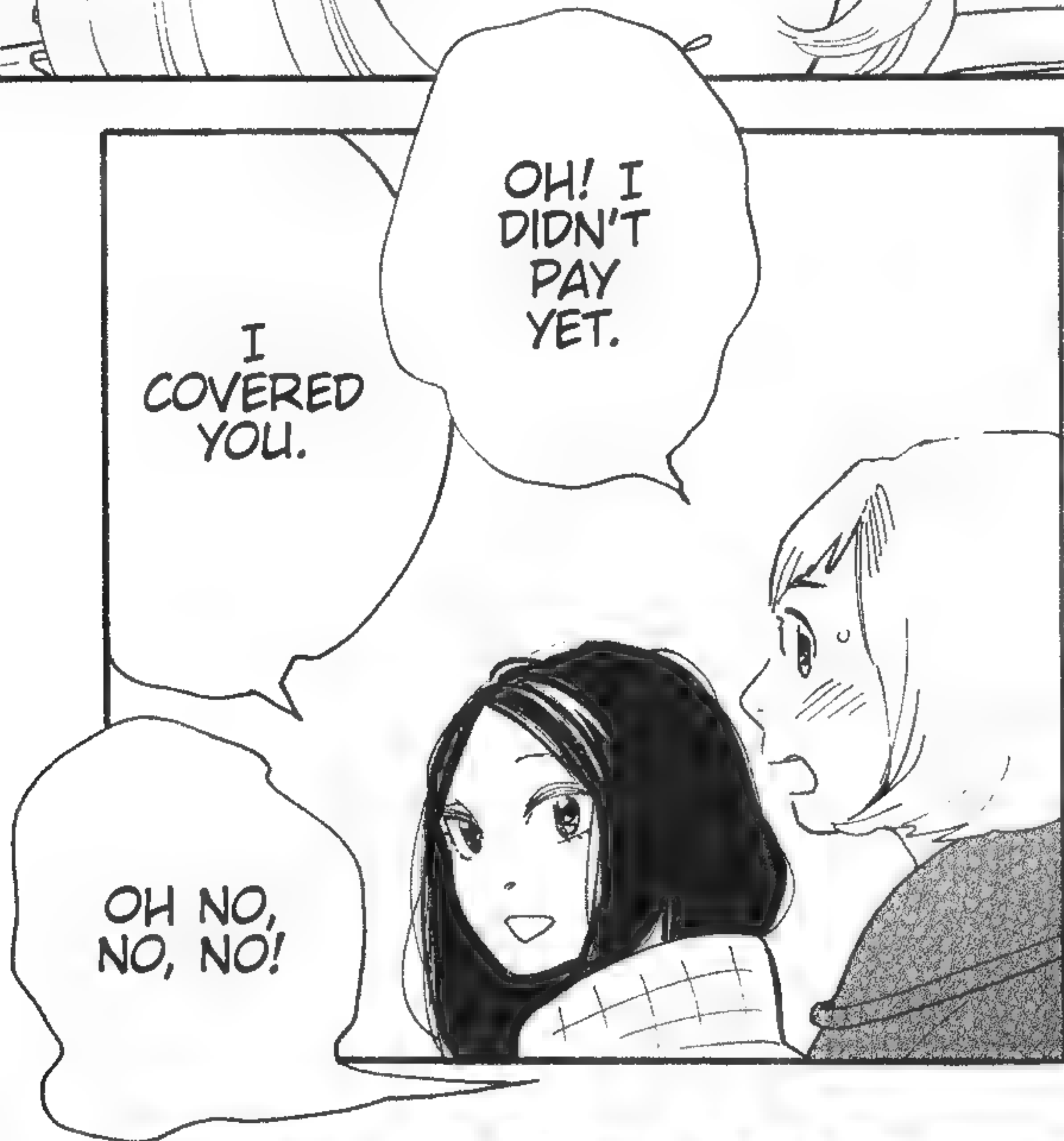






CAN WE  
GET THE  
CHECK,  
PLEASE!

SURE  
THING.



I  
COVERED  
YOU.

OH! I  
DIDN'T  
PAY  
YET.

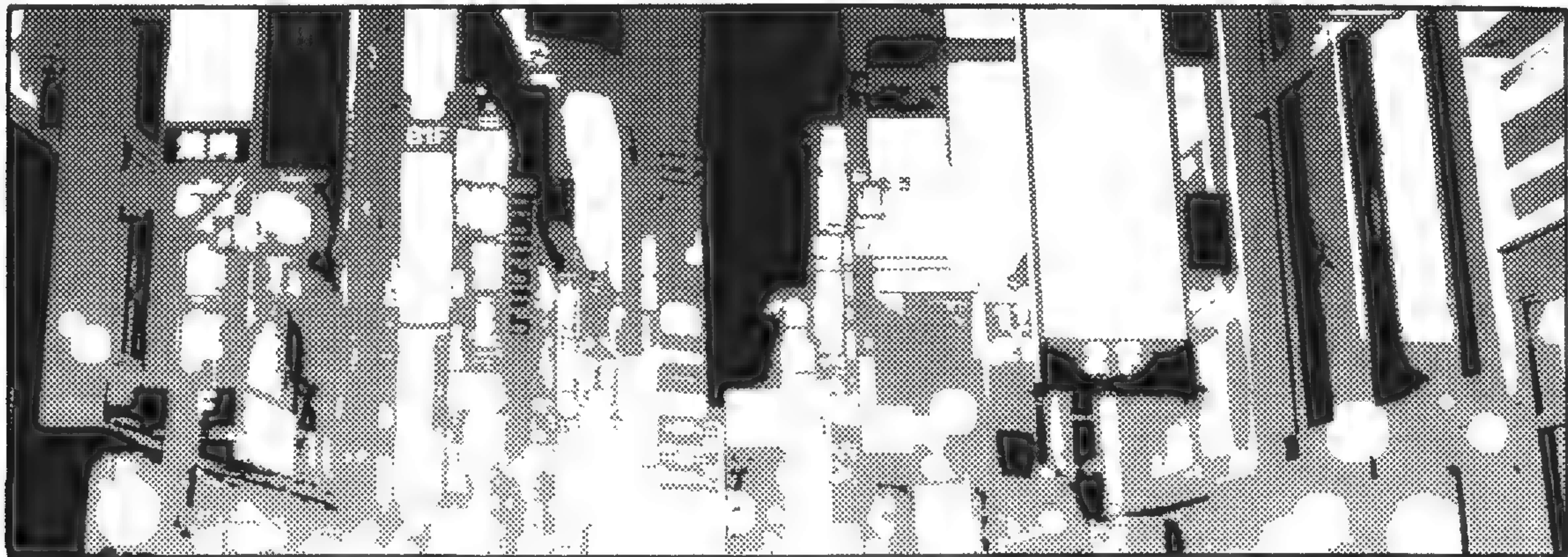
OH NO,  
NO, NO!



OF  
COURSE  
NOT!

BETTER  
NOT CALL  
IN SICK  
TOMORROW.

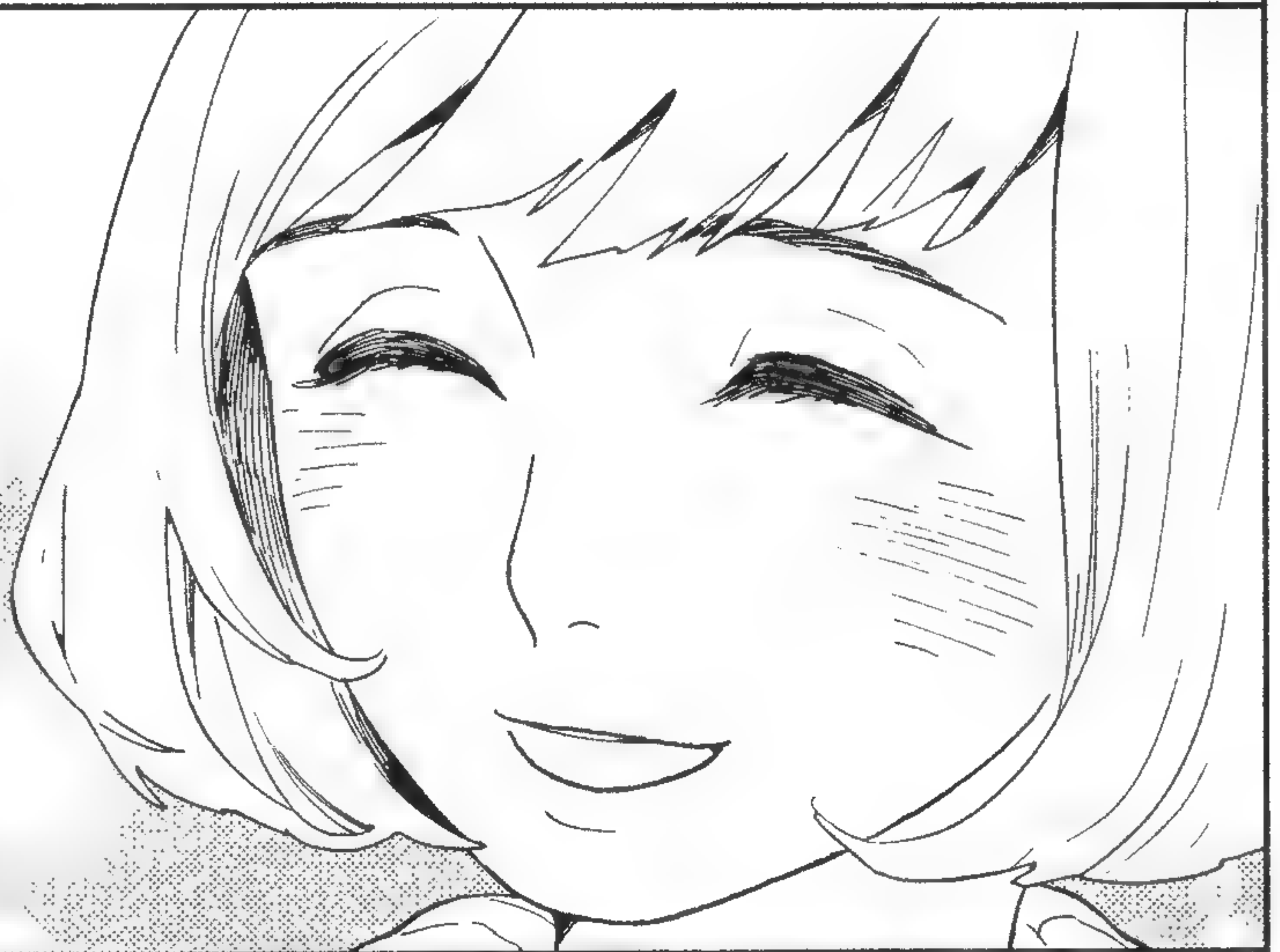
YOU'RE  
GOING  
BAR-  
HOPPING,  
AREN'T  
YOU?





IT'S  
LIKE SHE  
DOESN'T  
PUT UP  
ANY  
WALLS.

SHE HAS  
THIS...  
INNOCENCE.



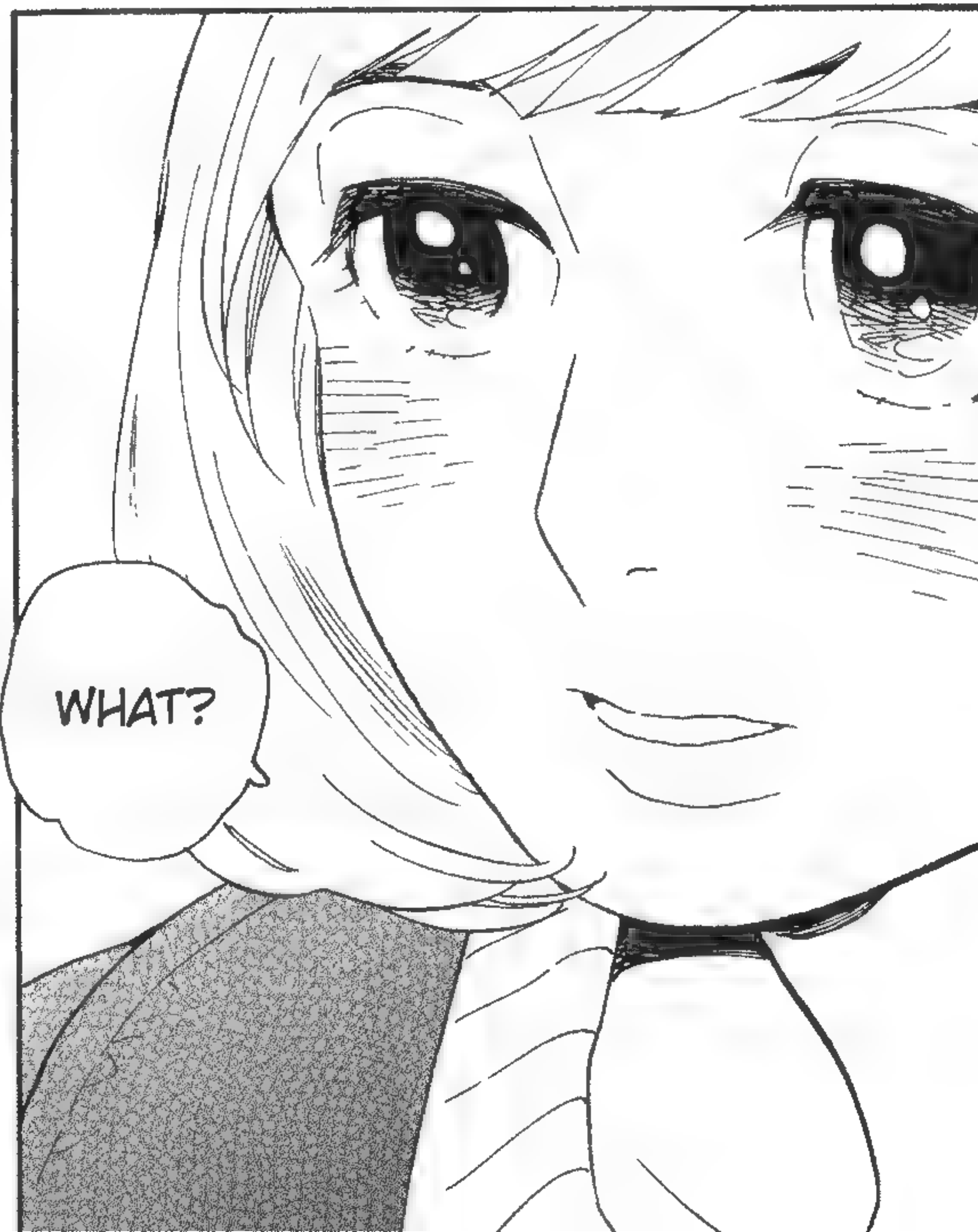
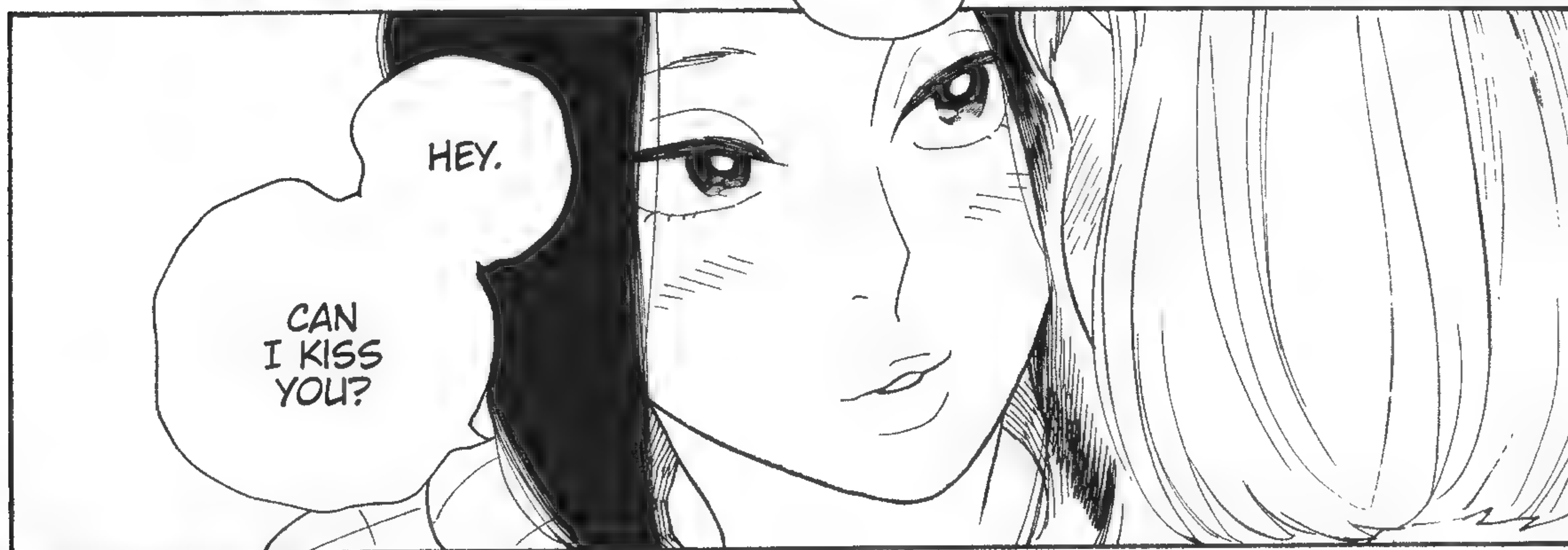
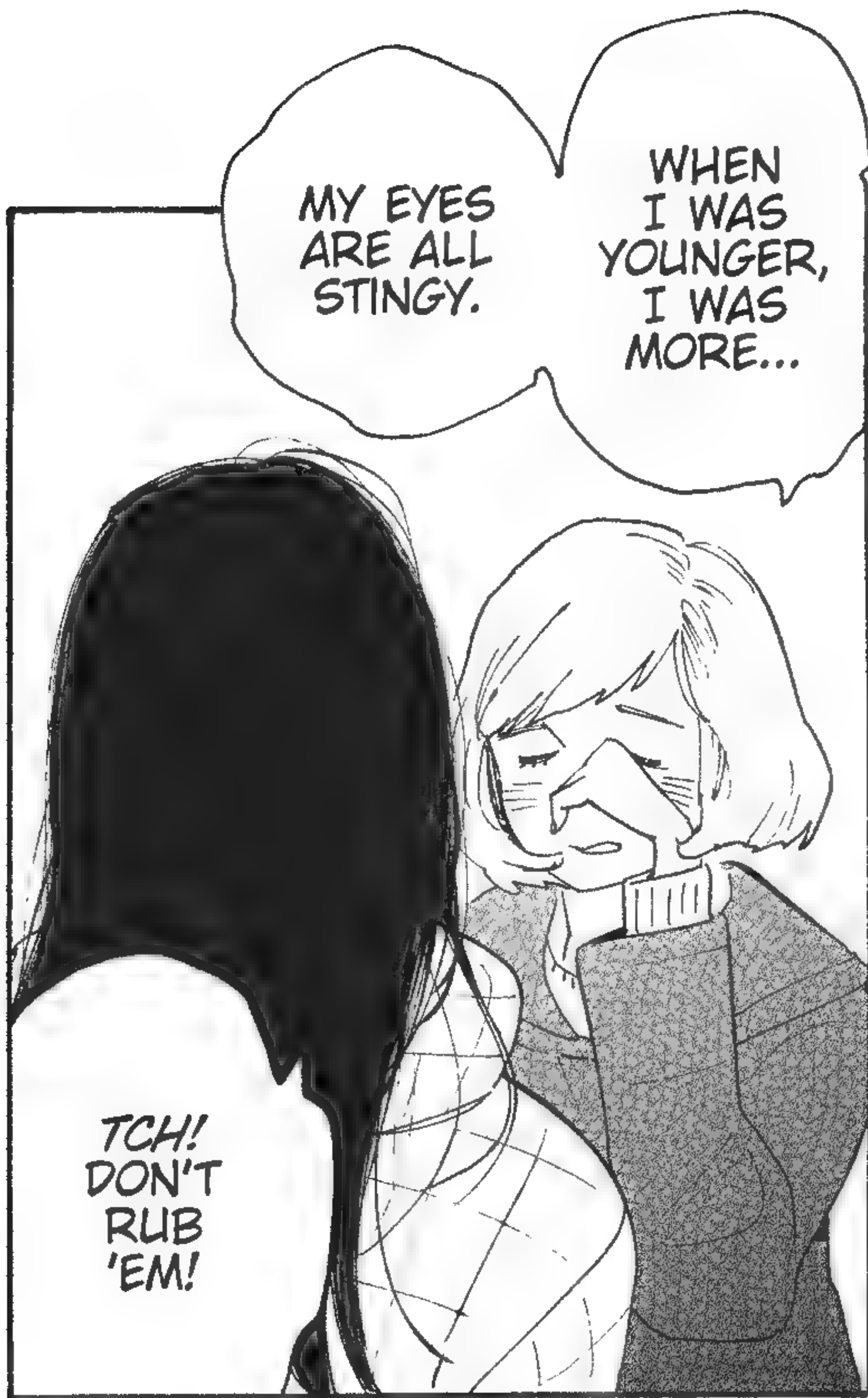
HOW  
OLD IS  
SHE?

SHE  
LOOKS  
YOUNG,  
TOO.



**I WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING!**

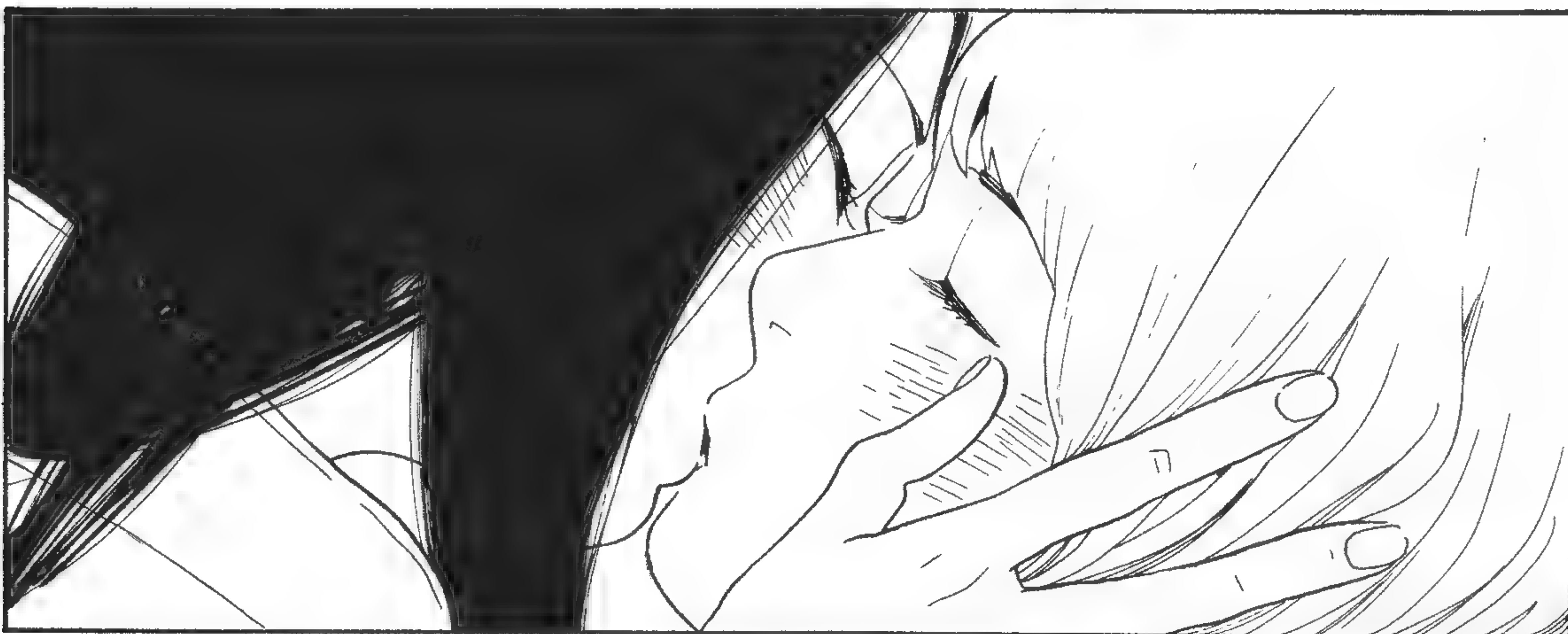
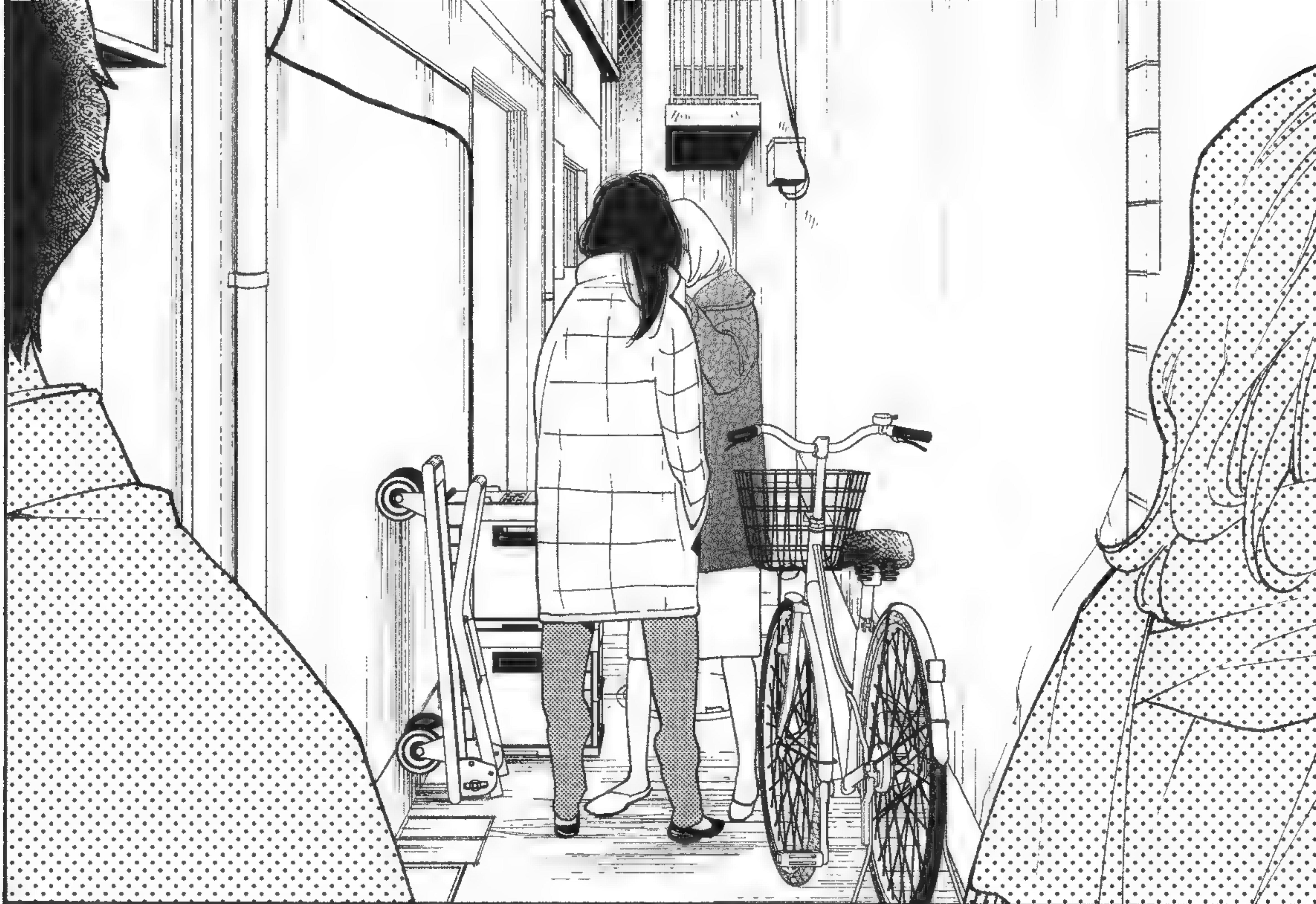






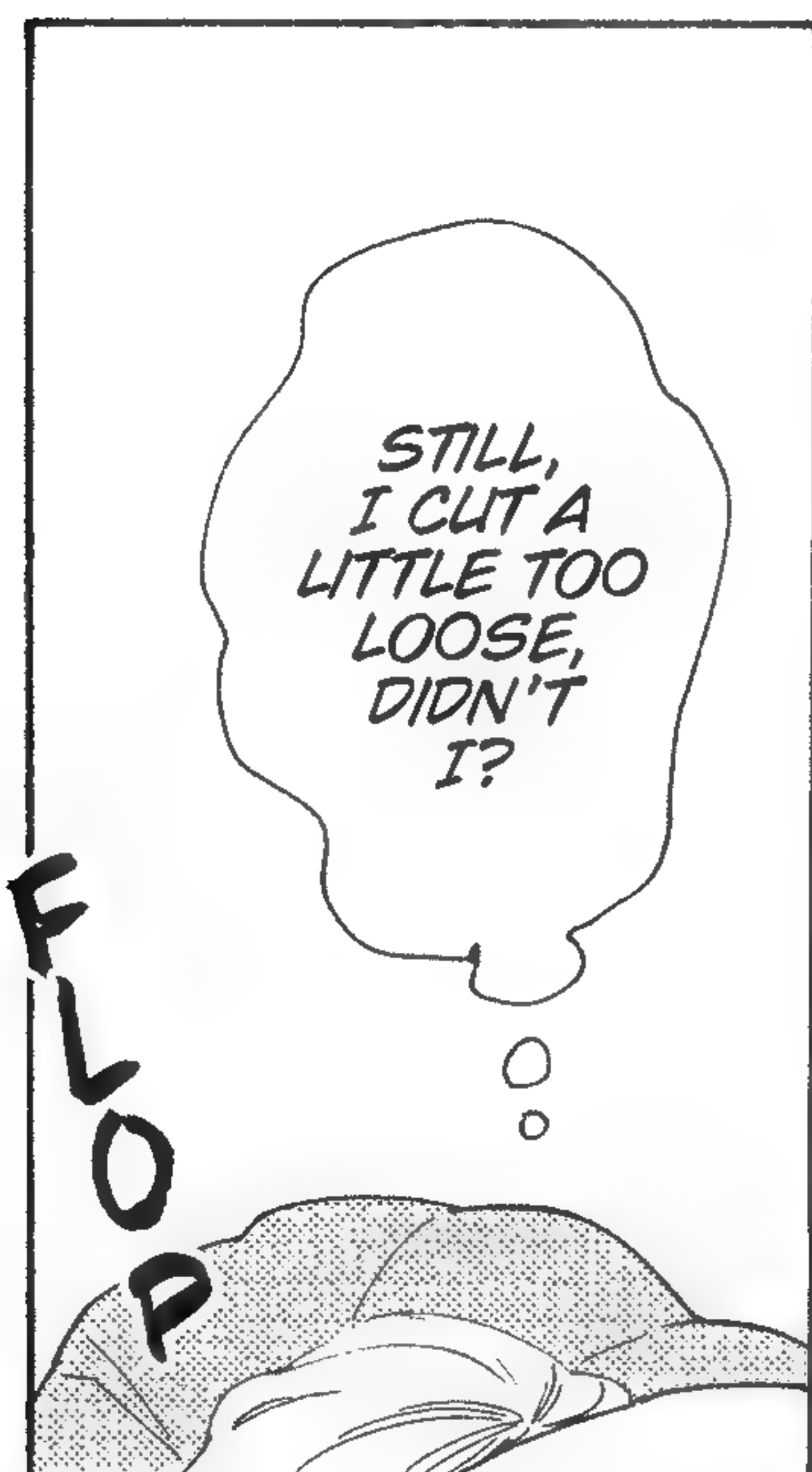
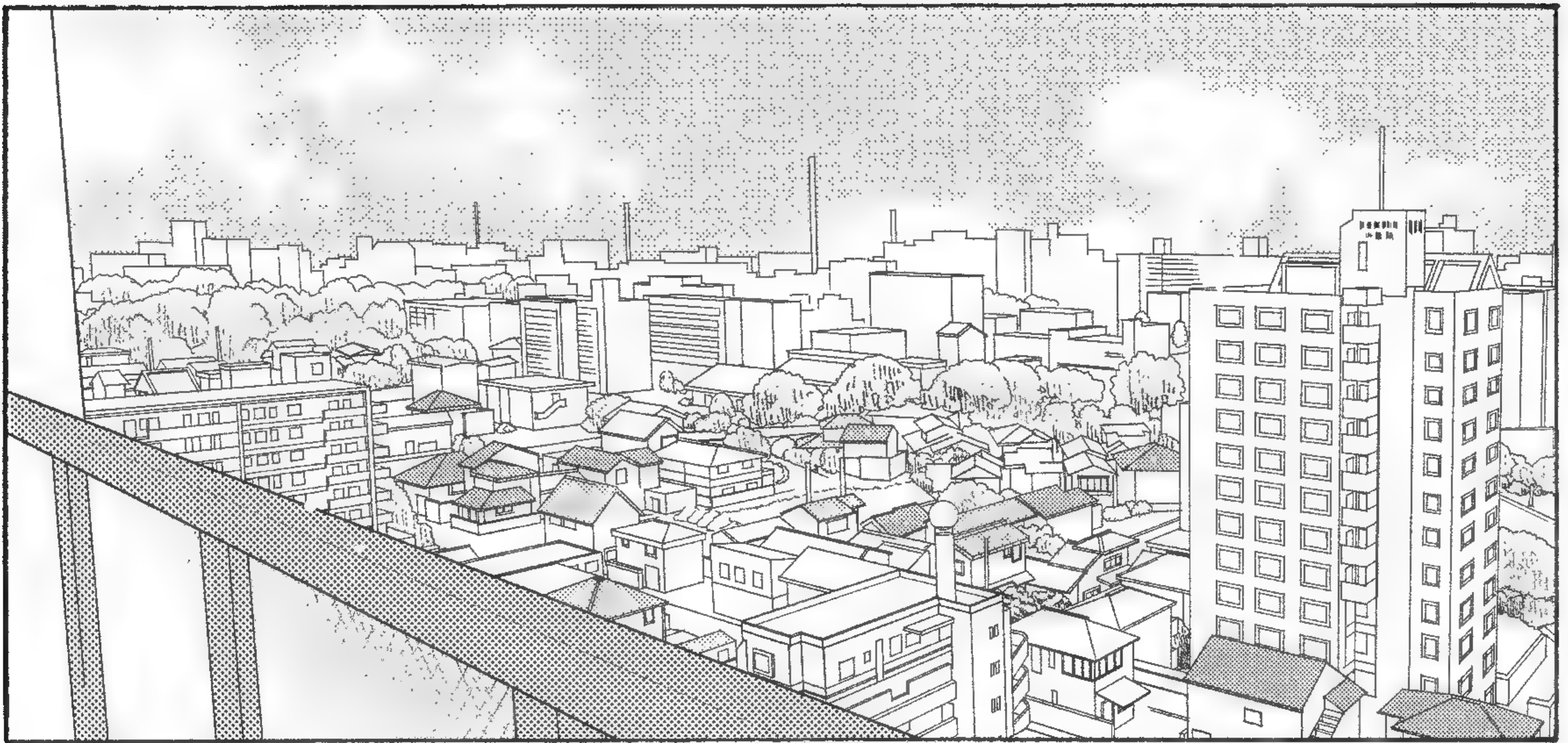




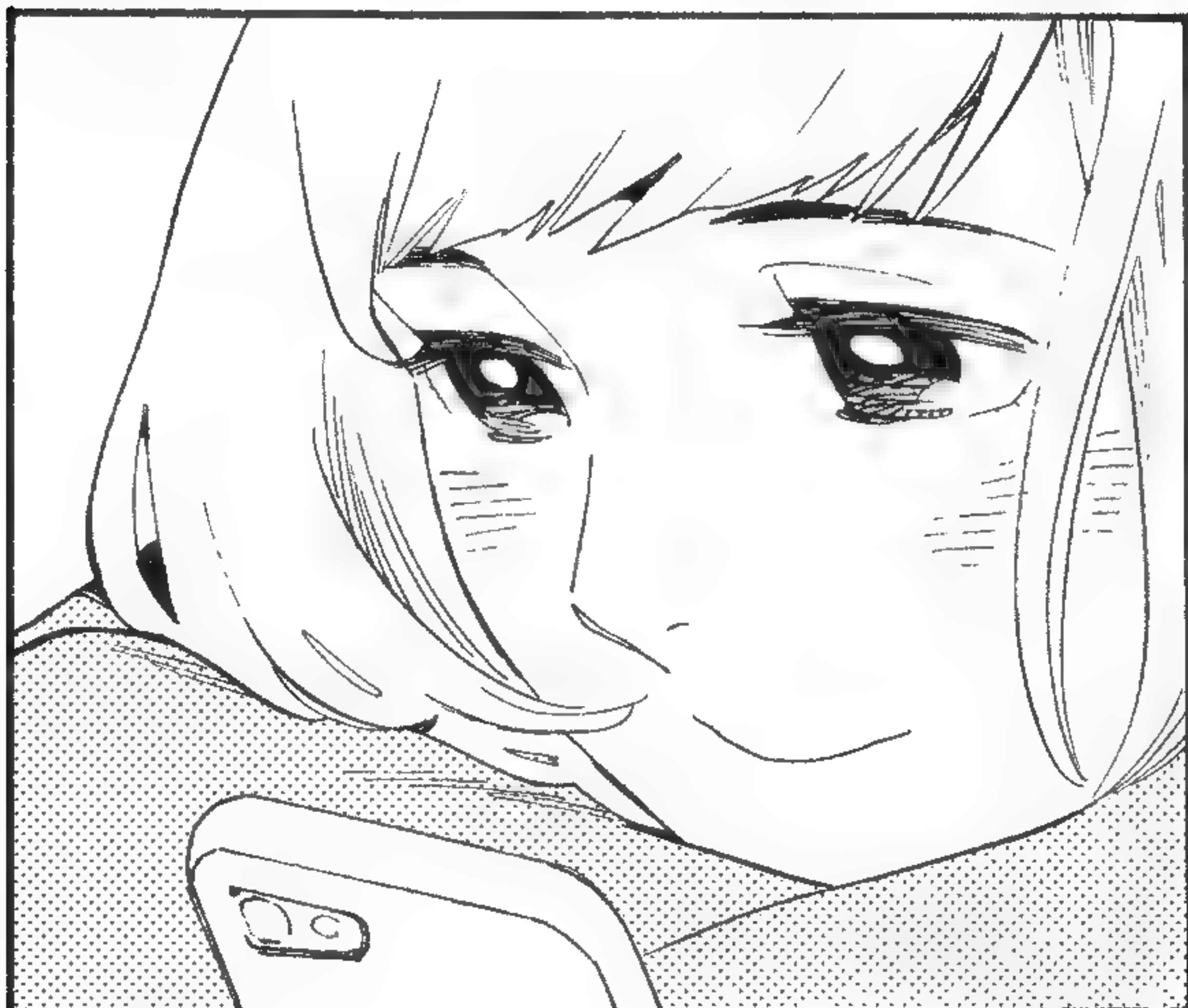
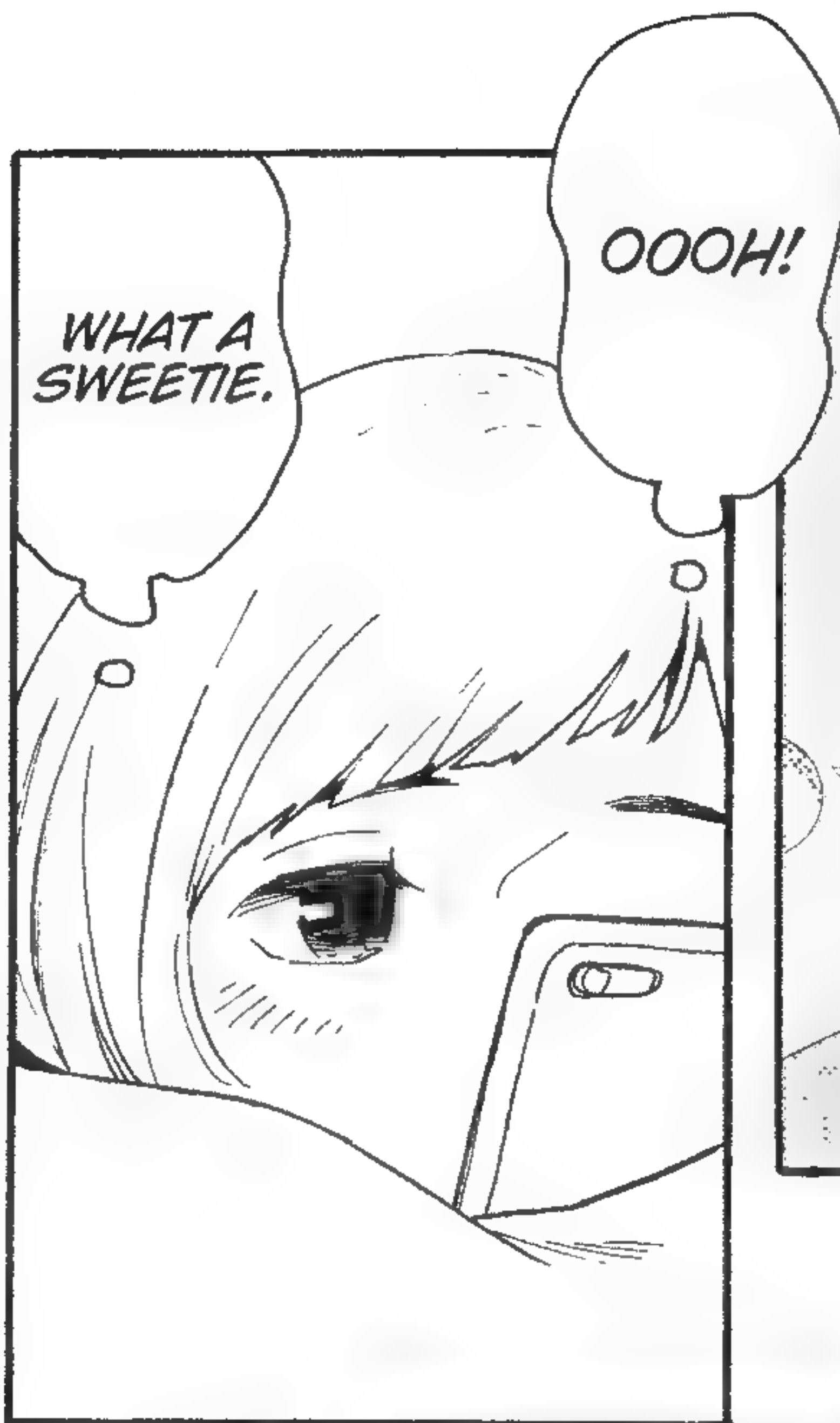


WHEN  
SOMEONE  
PULLS THE  
RUG OUT FROM  
UNDER YOU...  
SOMETIMES  
IT'S BEST TO  
LET YOURSELF  
FALL.

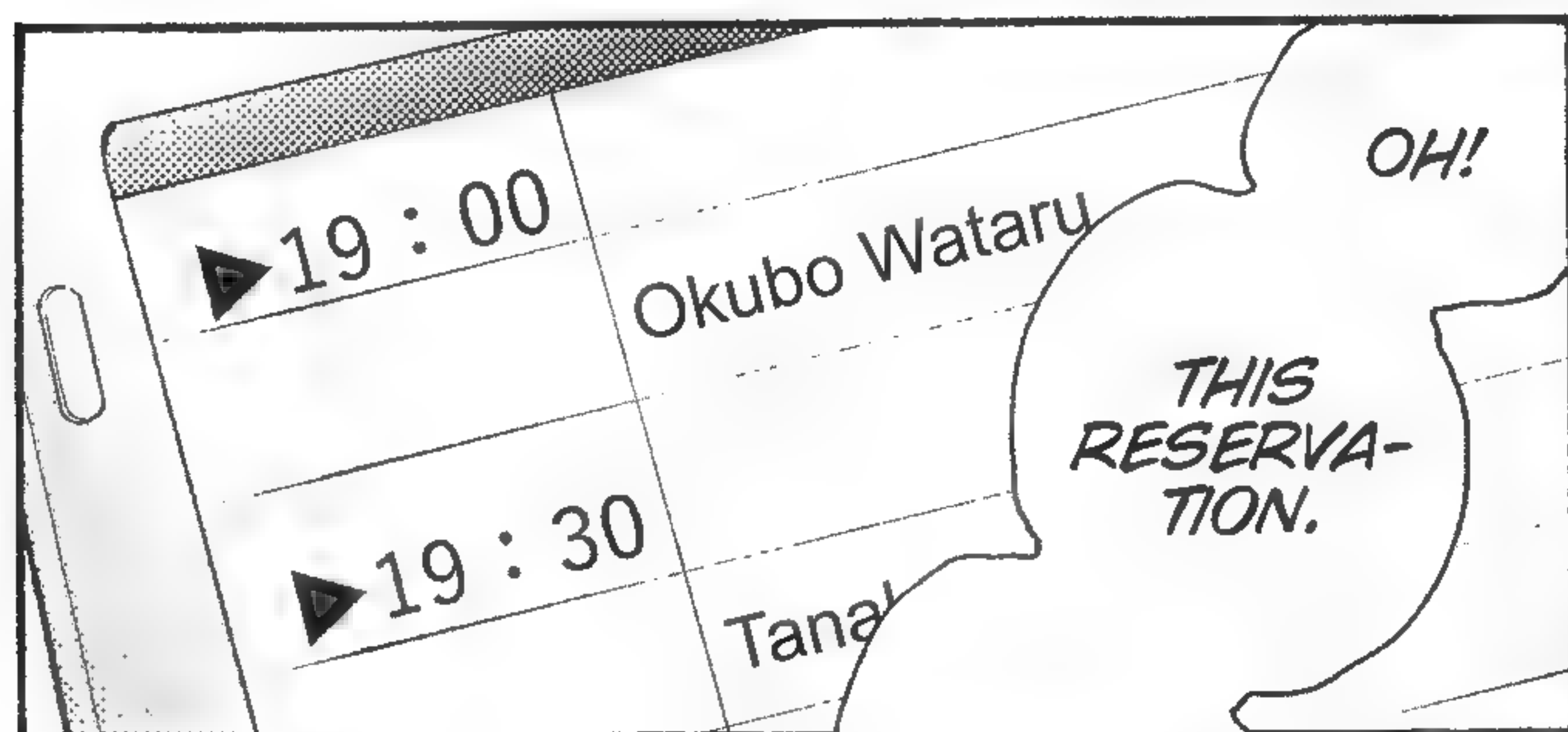
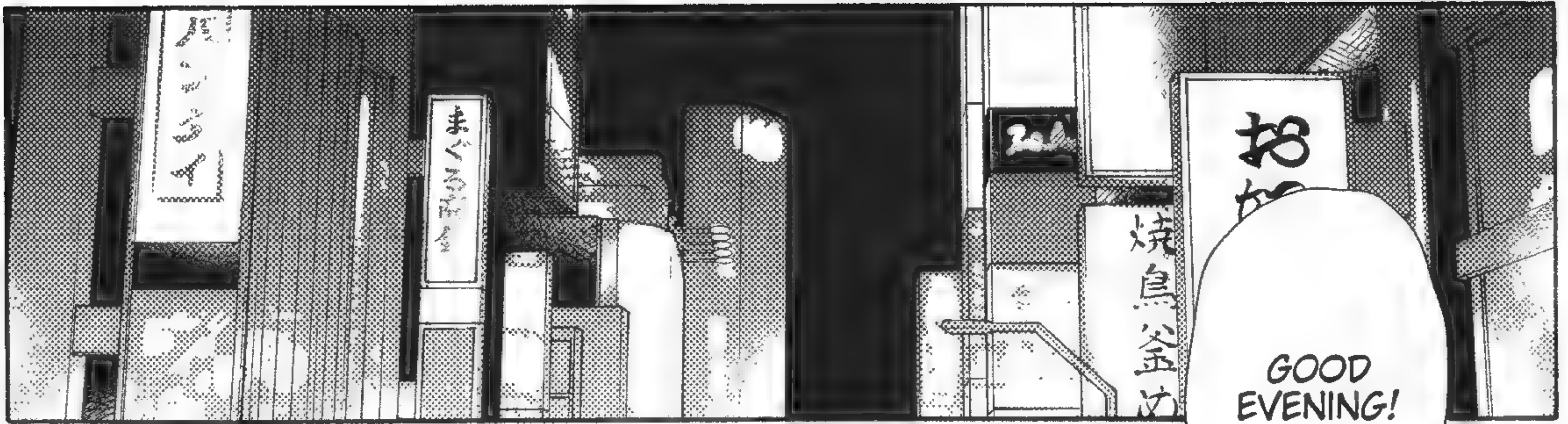








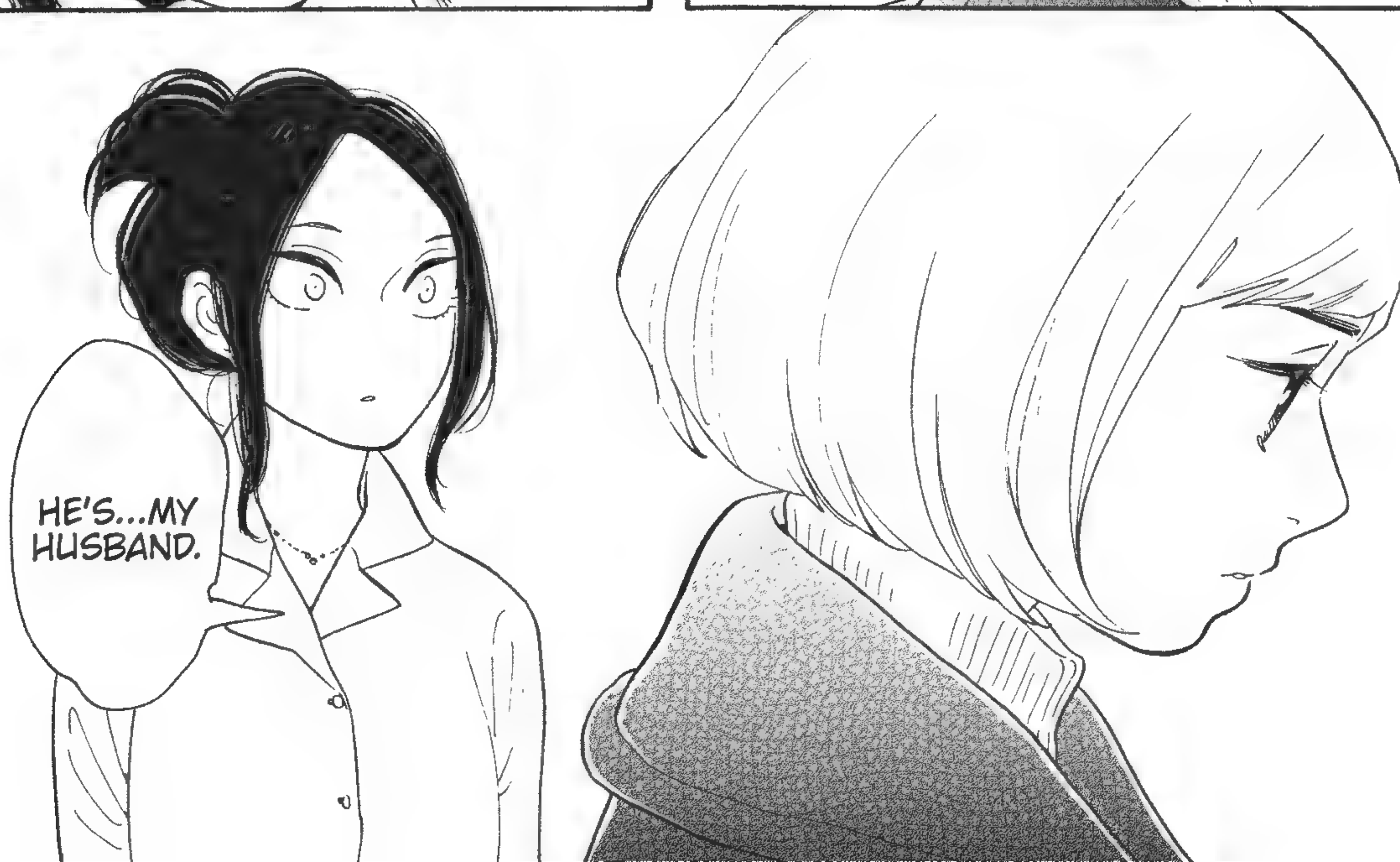
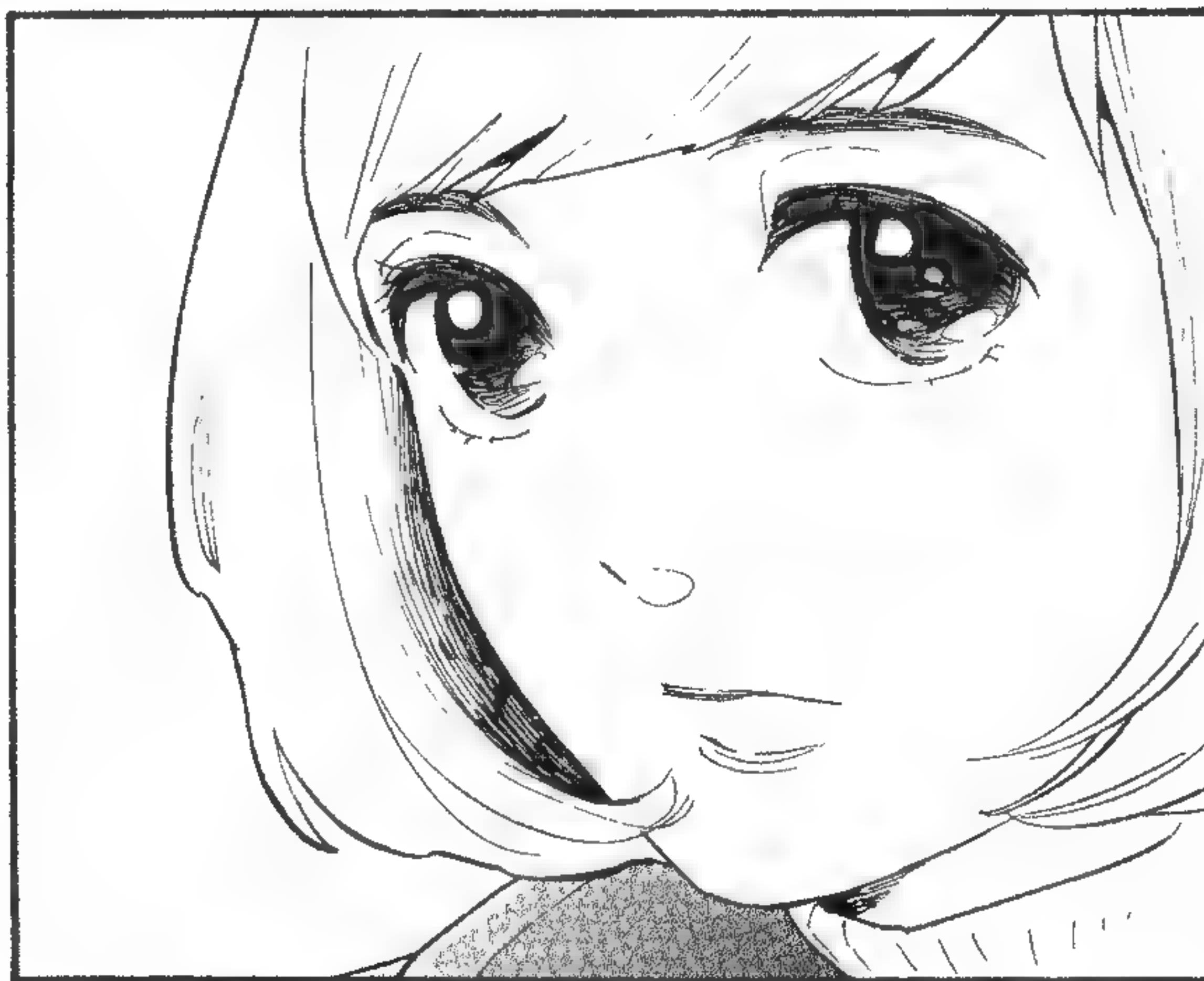
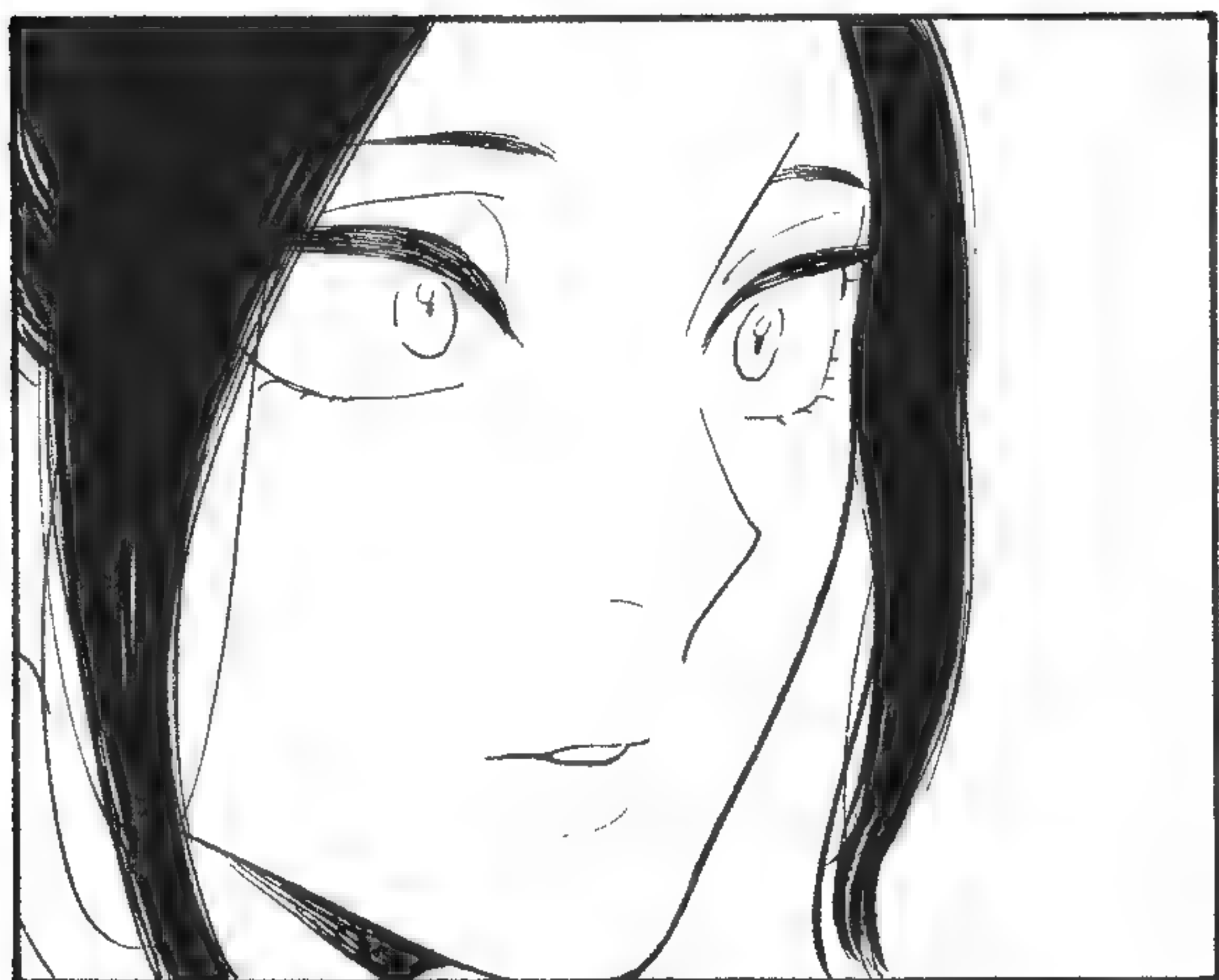




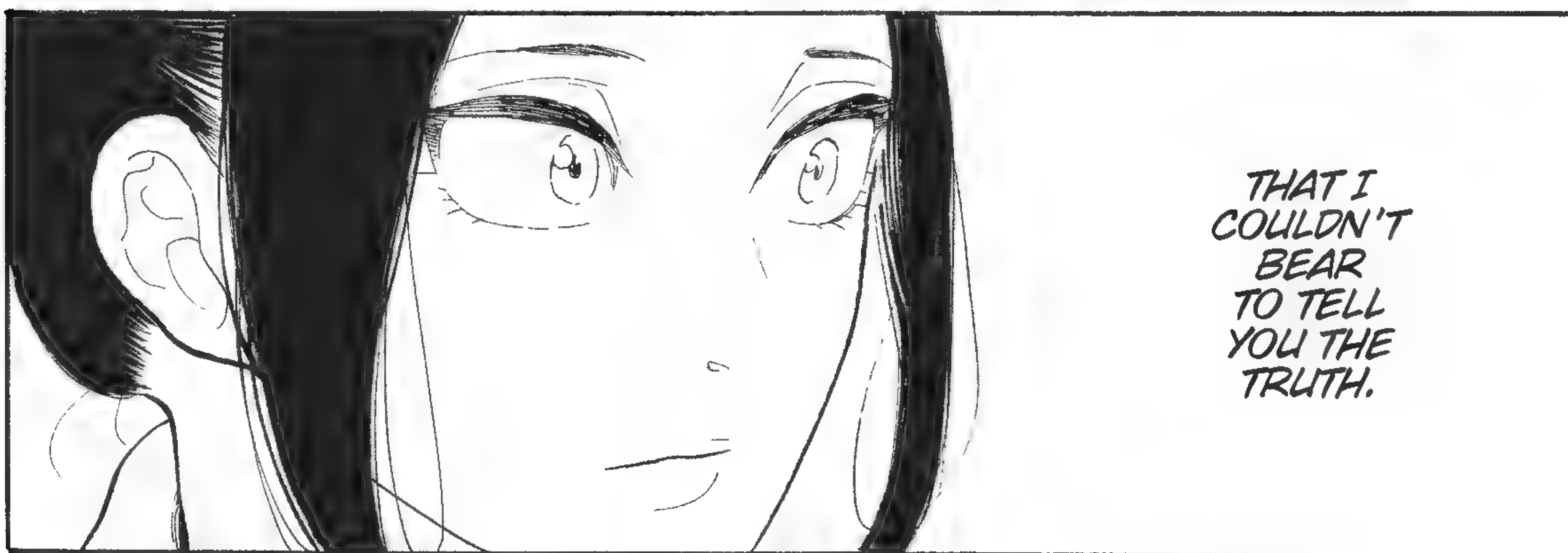
















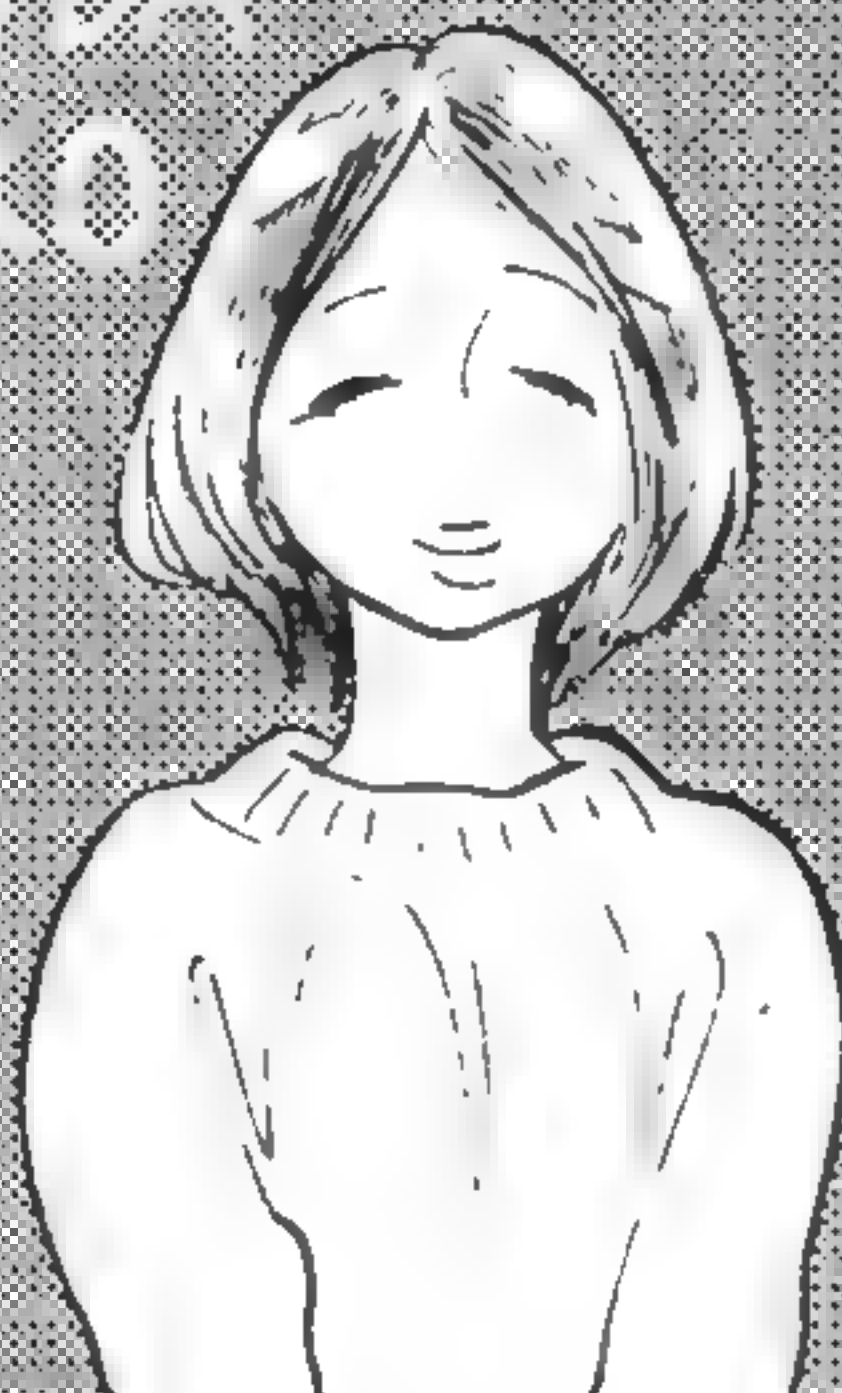
**Chapter 2**  
What Made  
You Like  
This?



MY FIRST  
LOVE  
WAS MY  
HOMEROOM  
TEACHER.

WHAT  
WAS  
HER  
NAME  
AGAIN?

SHIMODA  
AYAKO



AYAKO.

AYANO.

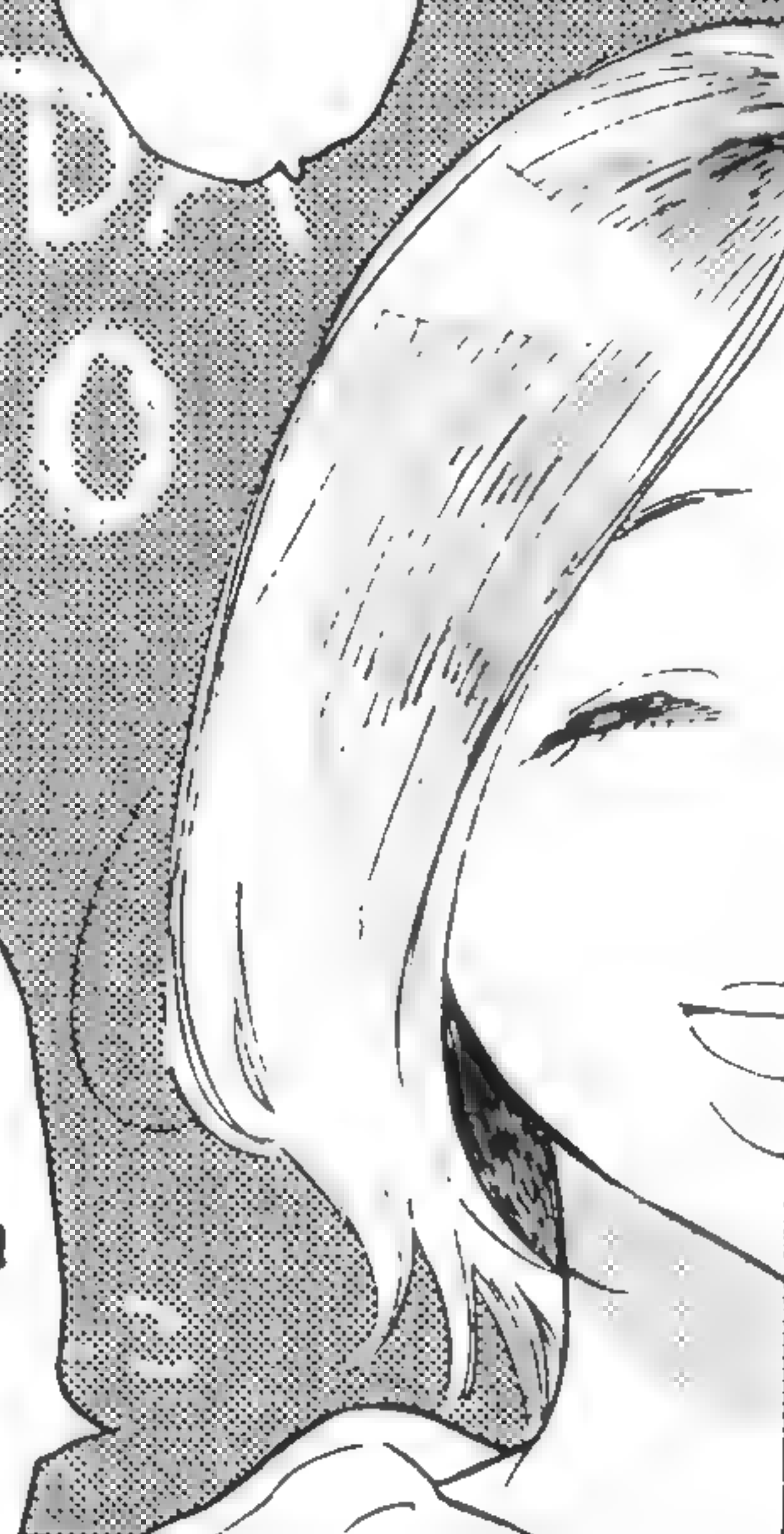
Let's  
have a  
great  
year  
together!



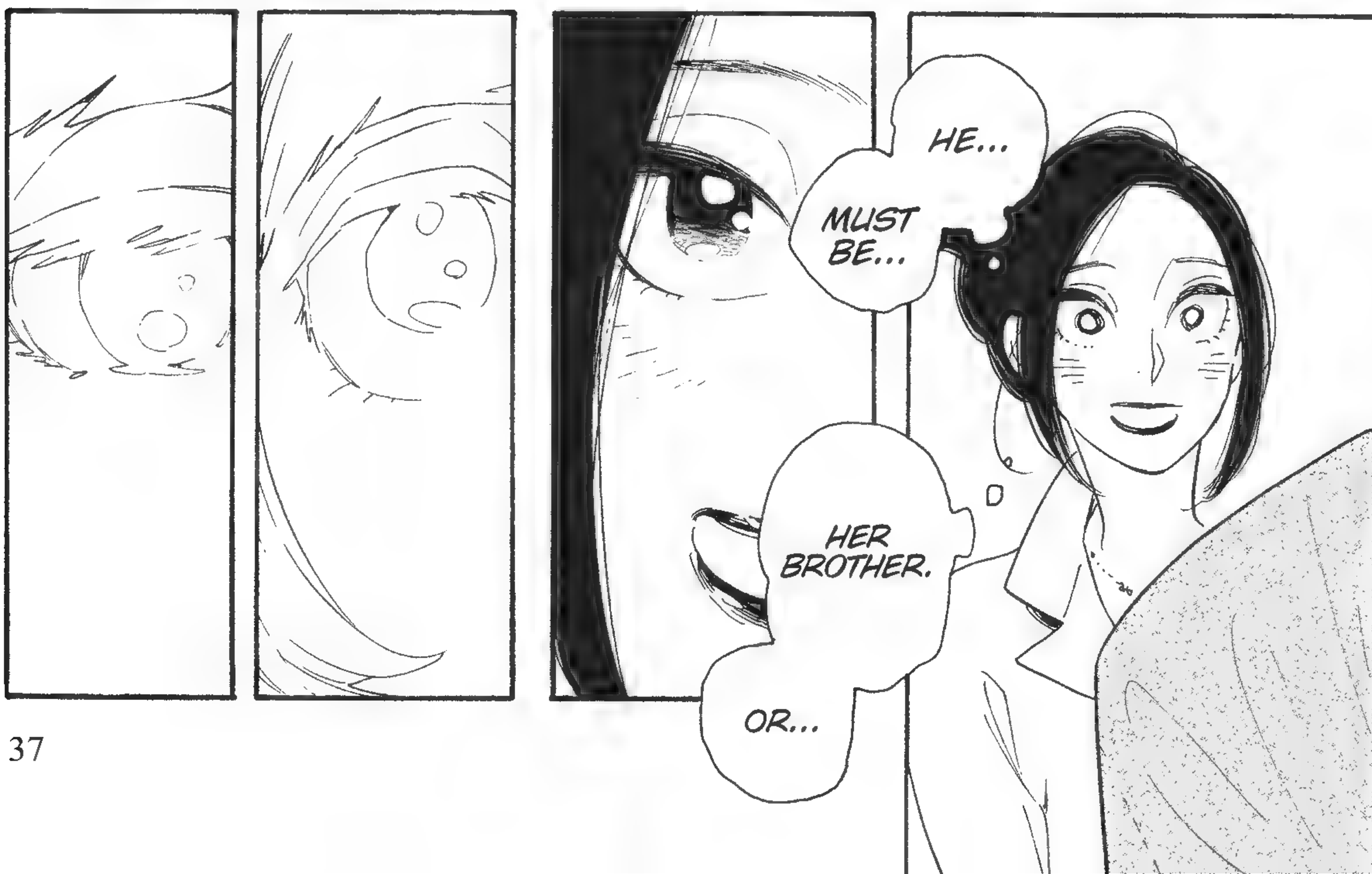
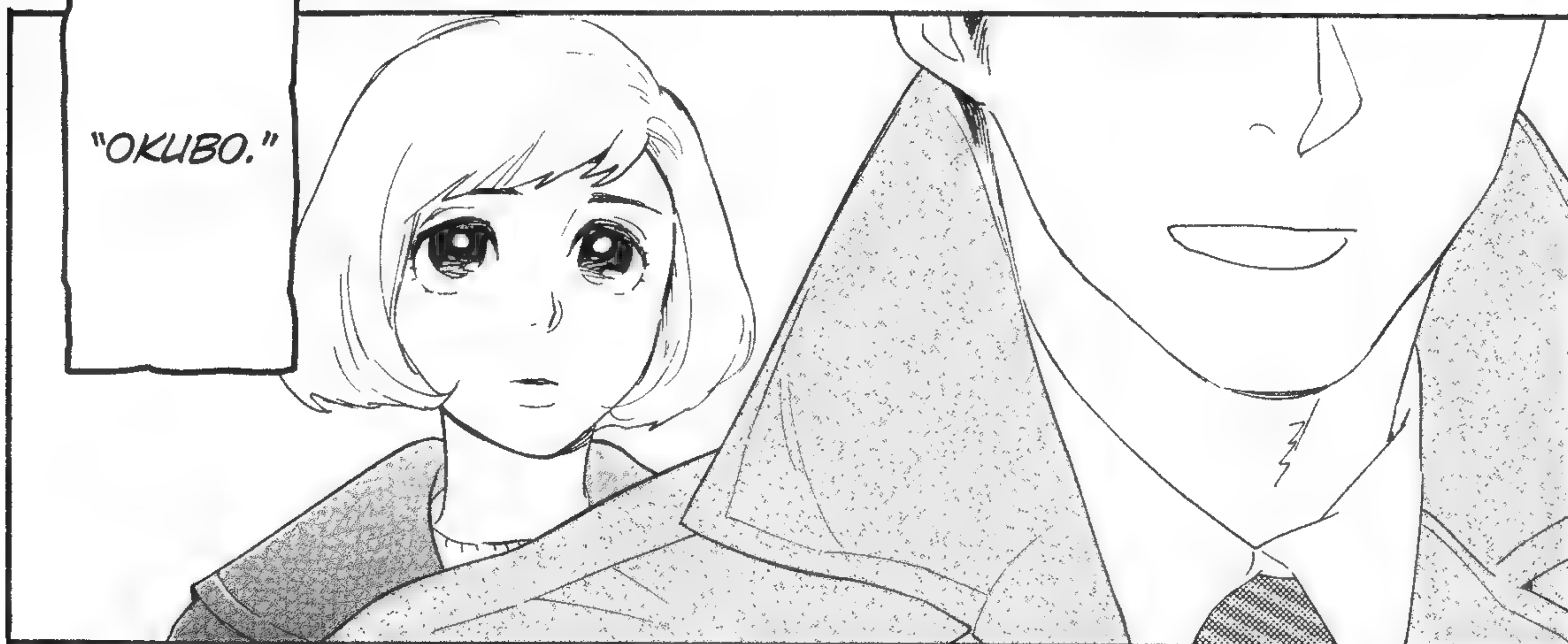
My  
name  
is...

SHIMODA  
AYAKO

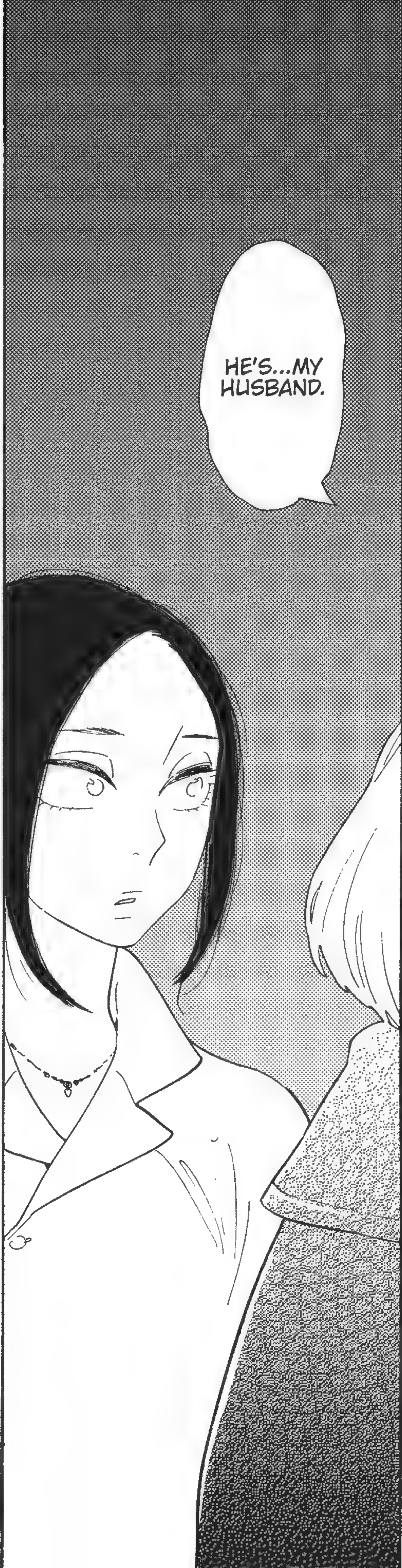
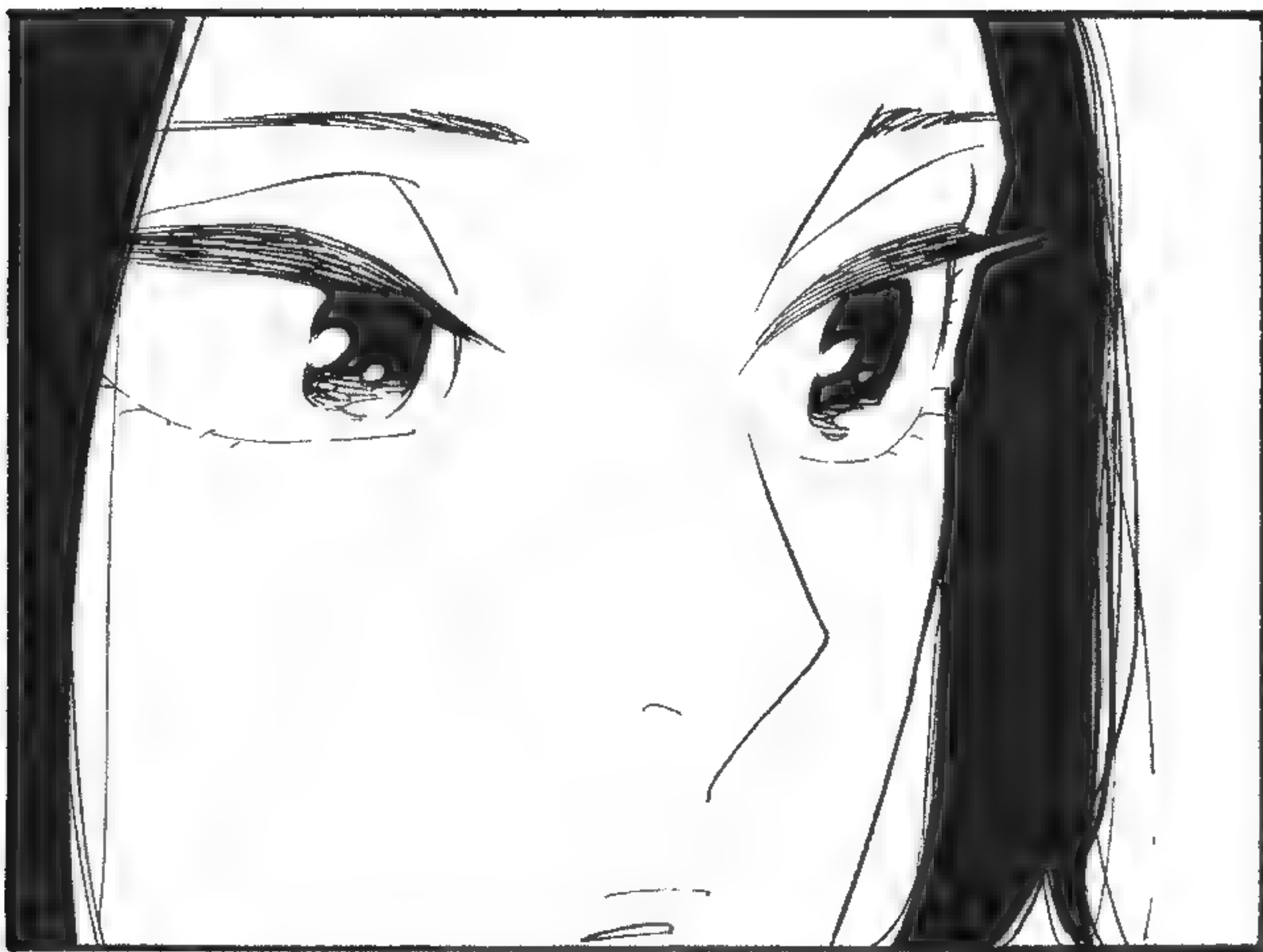
Shimoda  
Ayako.









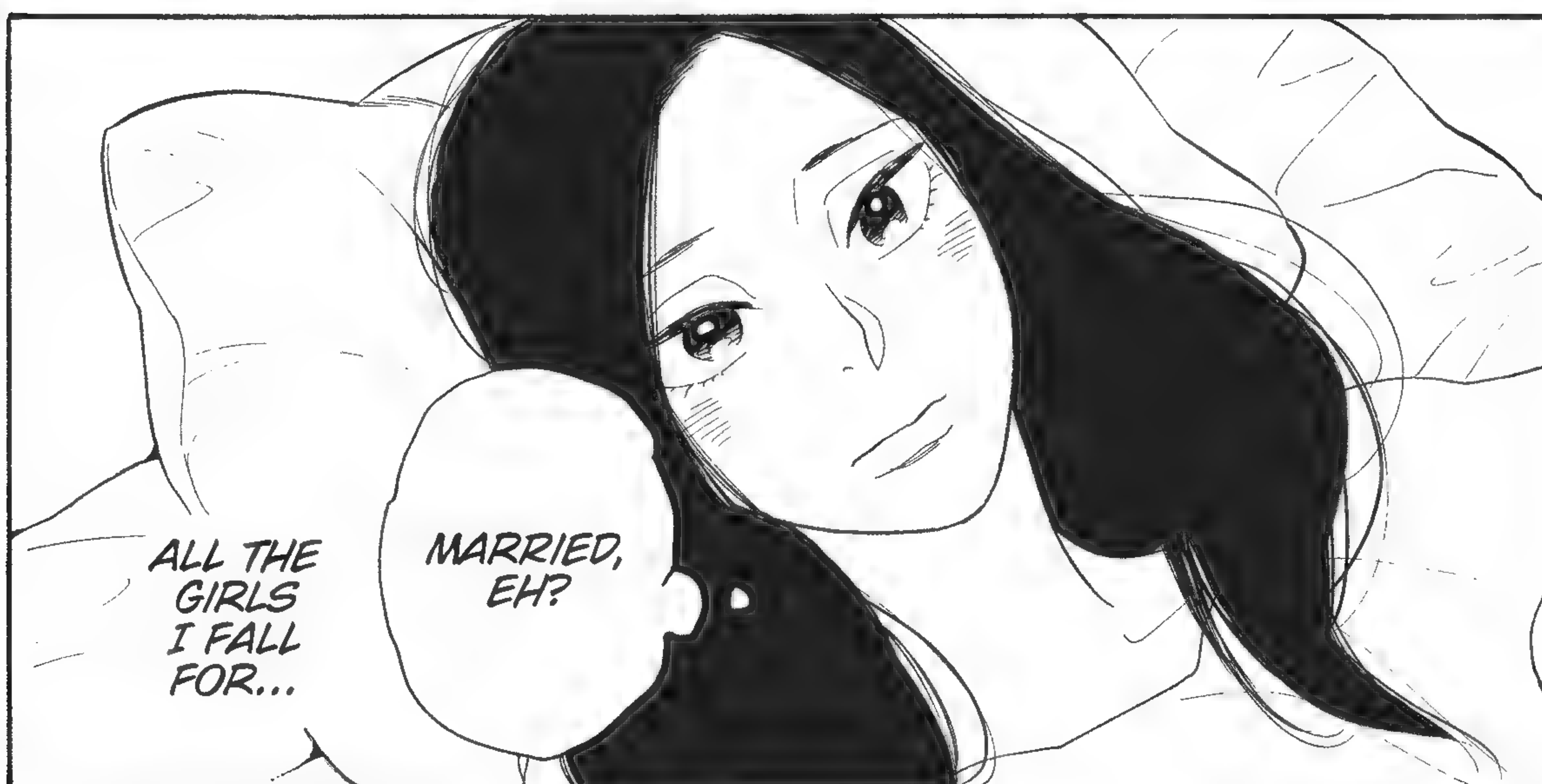




I SHOULD  
HAVE  
GUESSED.

A  
MARRIED  
WOMAN.

SO IT  
GOES.



I CAN'T  
STOP  
WANTING  
WHAT I  
CAN'T  
HAVE.

ALWAYS  
SEEM  
TO BE  
MARRIED.



WOMEN OF  
A CERTAIN  
AGE ARE A  
MINEFIELD.

I'VE  
GOTTEN  
GOOD AT  
GUARDING  
MY HEART.

SAME OLD  
STORY.  
ANOTHER  
FAILED  
ROMANCE...

BUT...

THAT'S  
WHY I  
TAKE THE  
PRECAU-  
TIONS  
I DO.

THEN I  
TAKE A  
PEEK AT  
HER RING  
FINGER.

I MAKE  
SURE  
WE'RE  
ON THE  
SAME  
PAGE.

I ALWAYS  
MAKE SURE  
SHE'S  
FEELING  
ME FIRST.

I THOUGHT  
I WAS GOOD  
AT CATCHING  
THIS STUFF.

AND YEAH,  
SOME PEOPLE  
DON'T WEAR  
RINGS.

BUT THERE  
ARE TELLS  
THAT GIVE  
THEM AWAY.

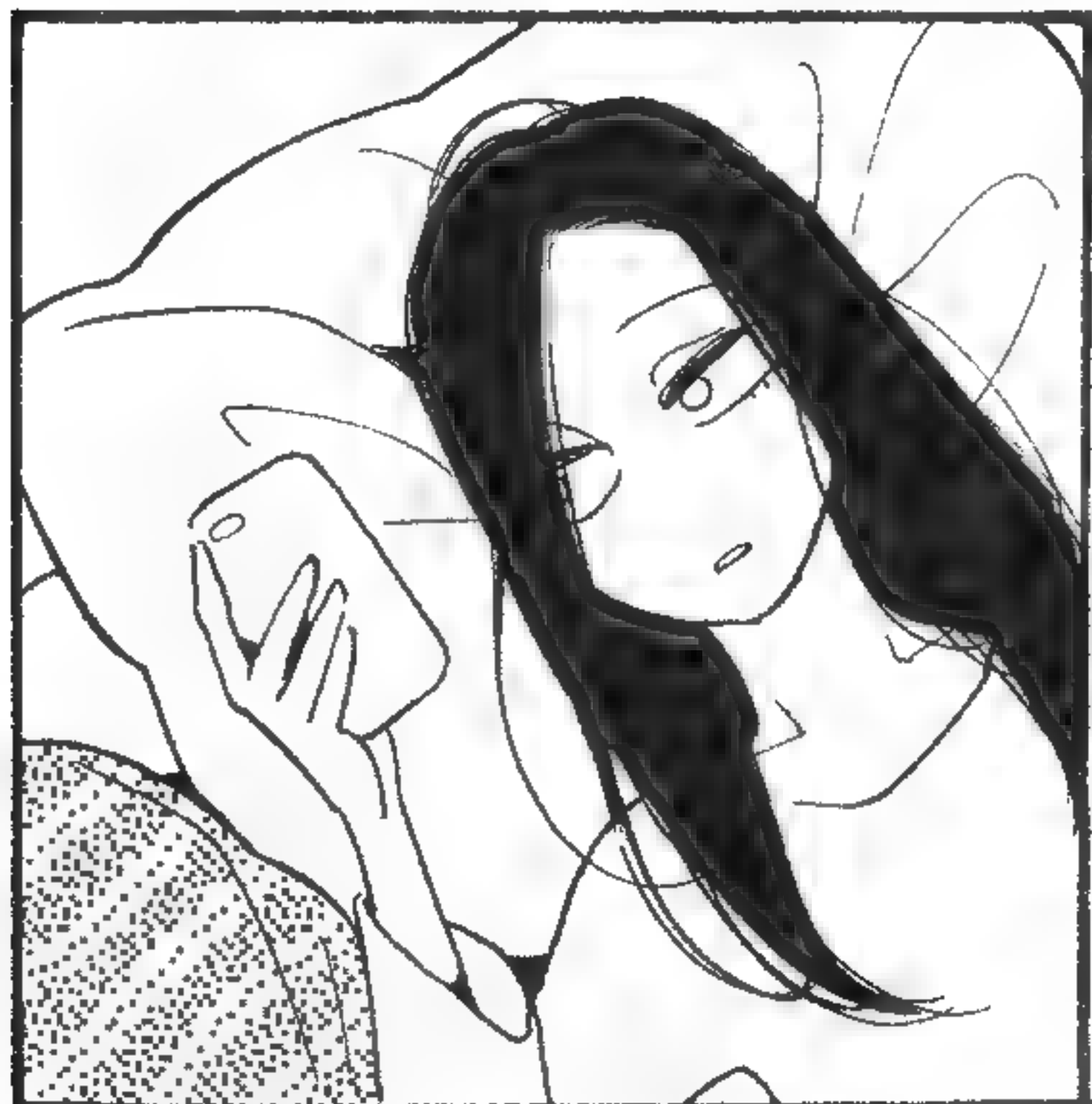




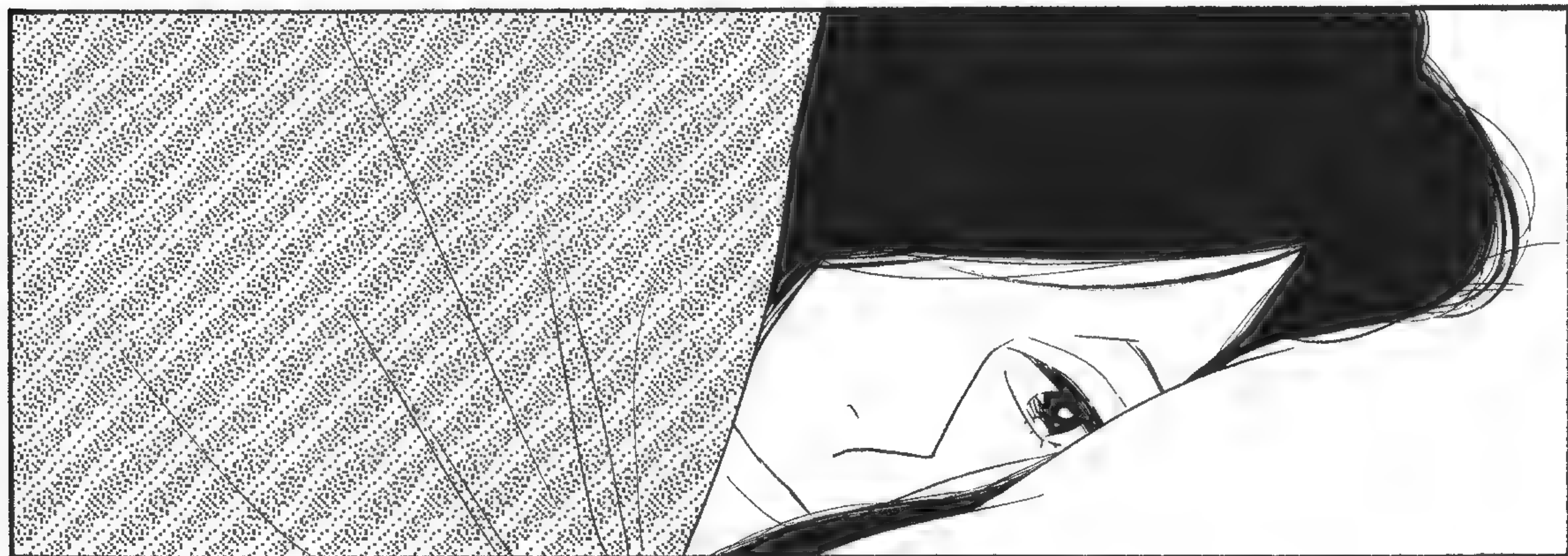
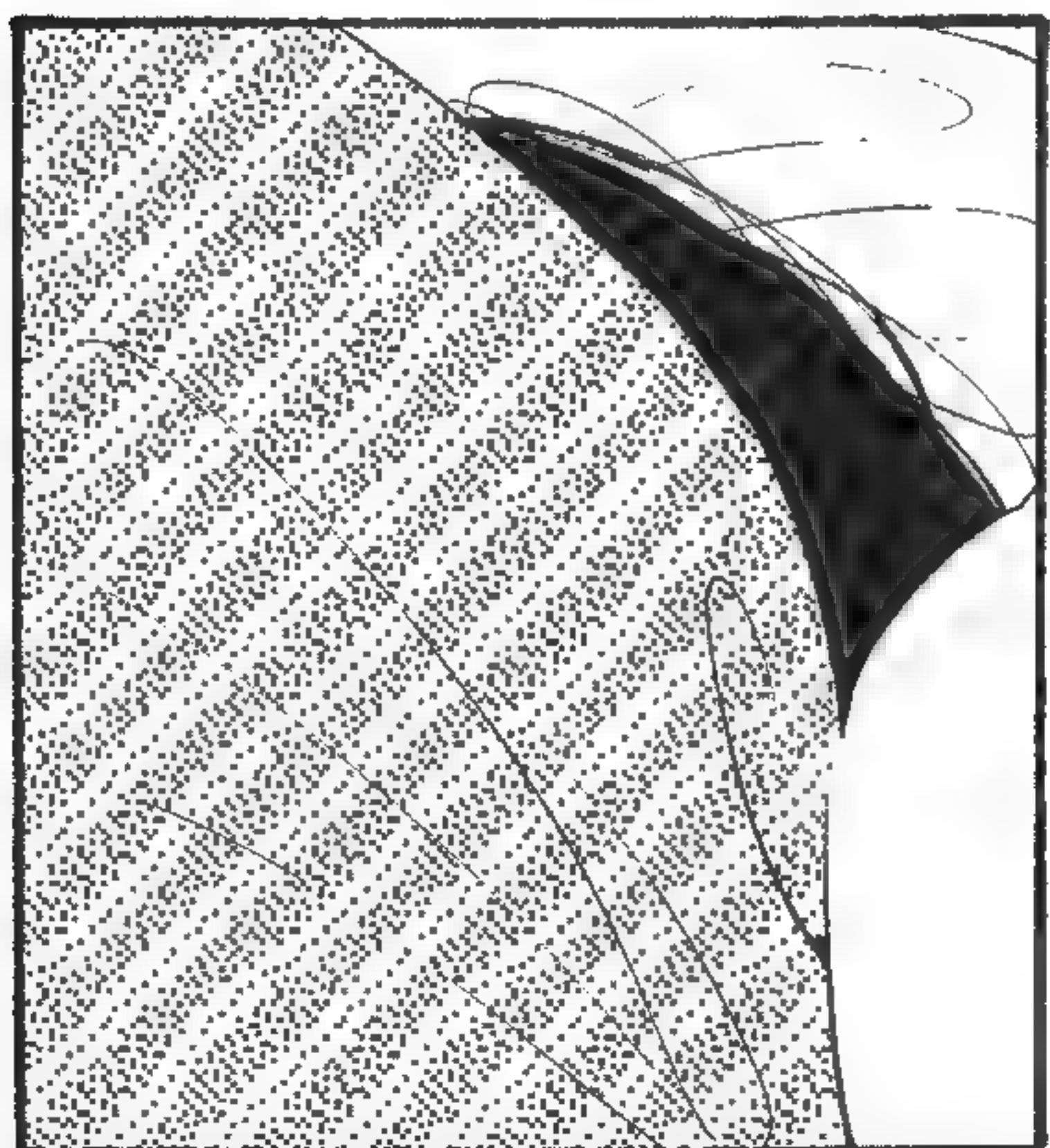
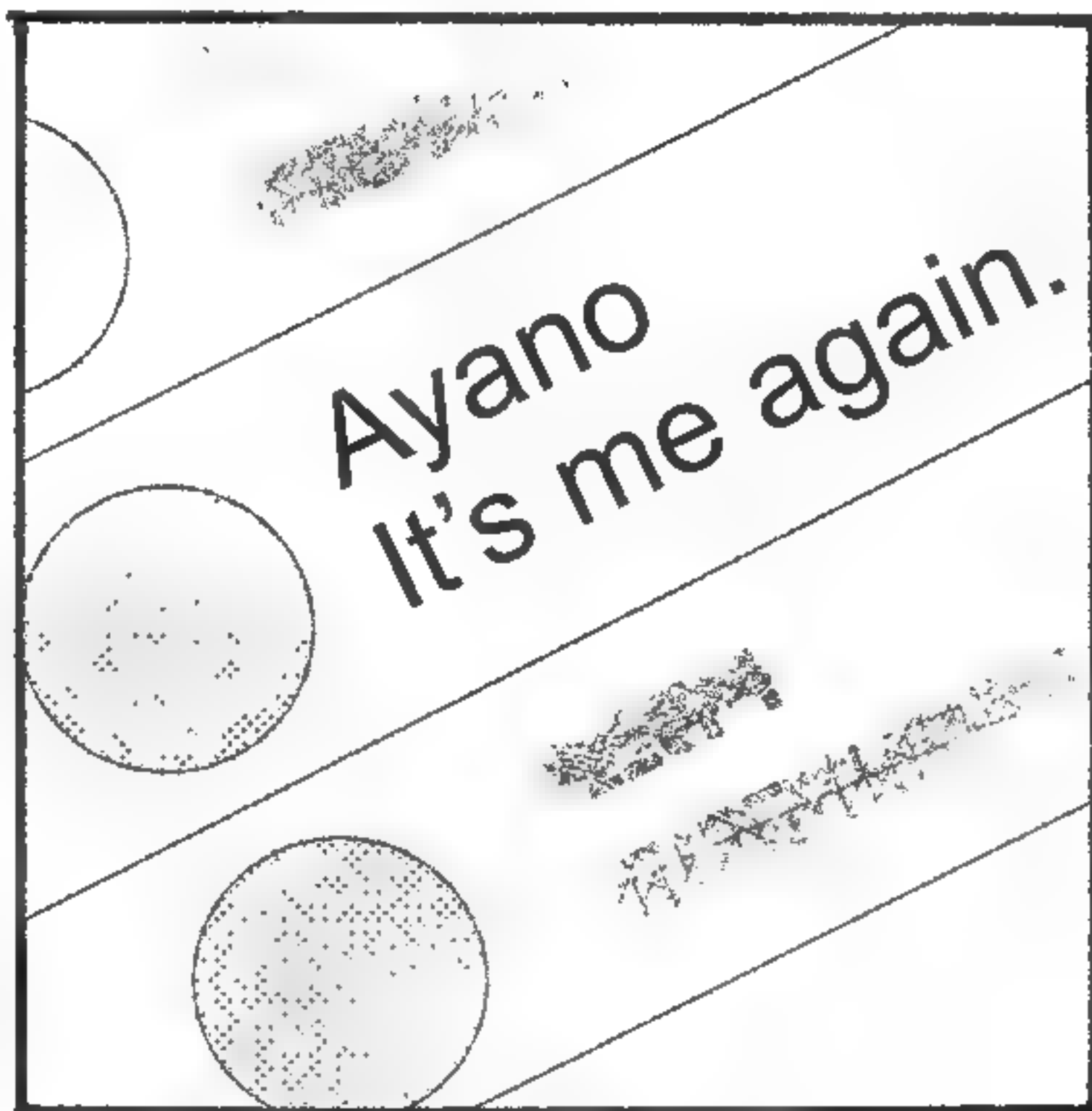




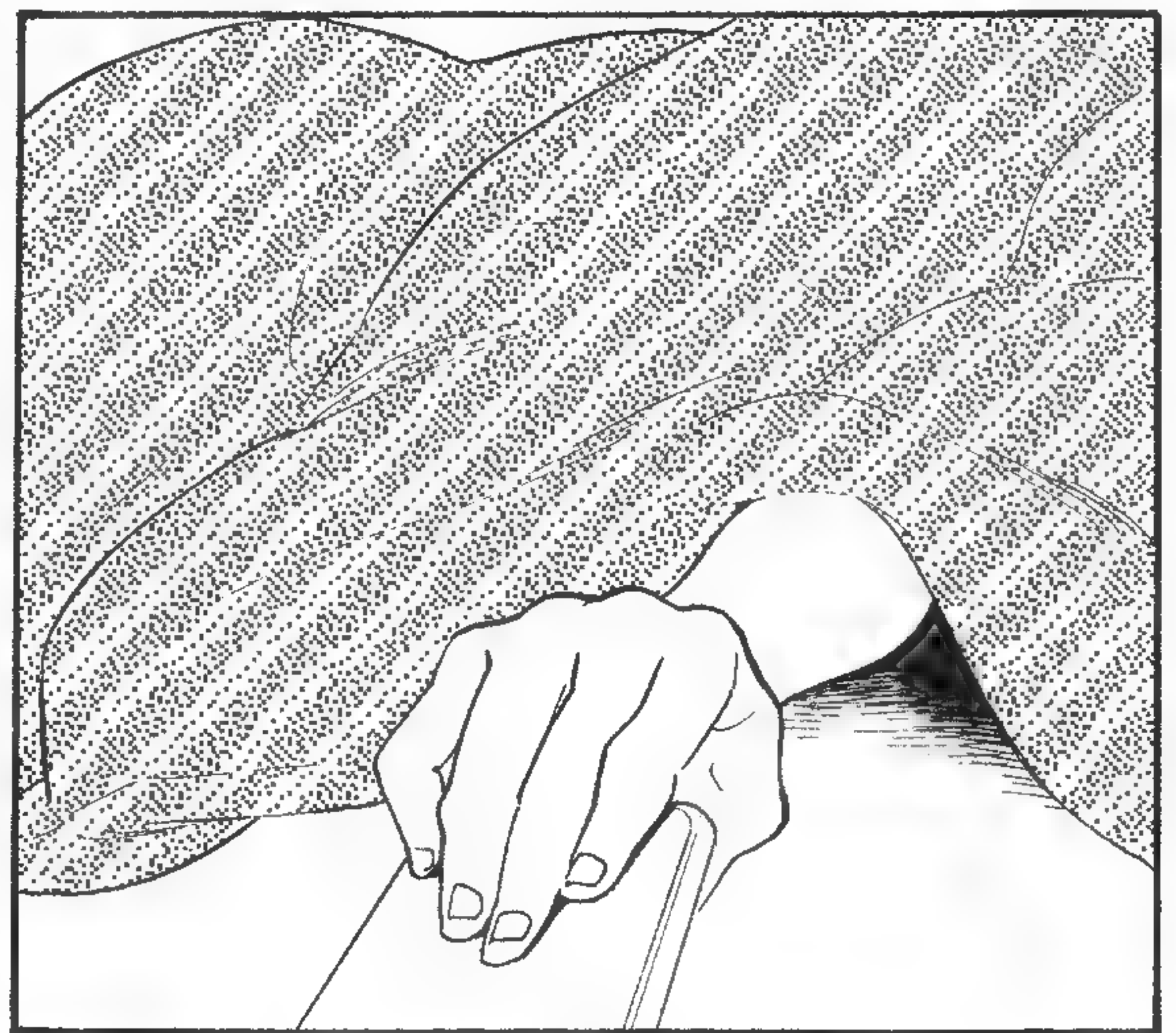
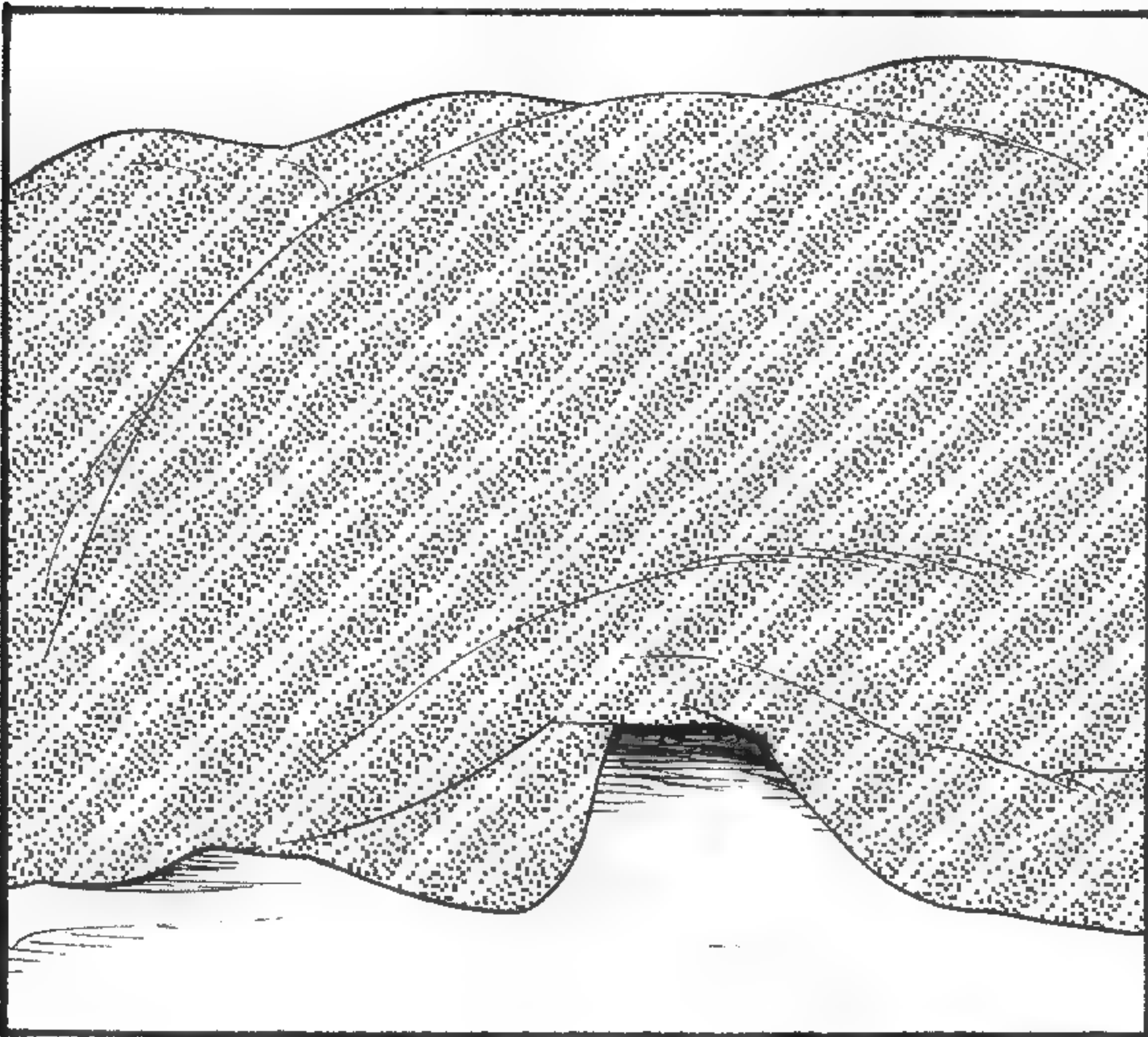
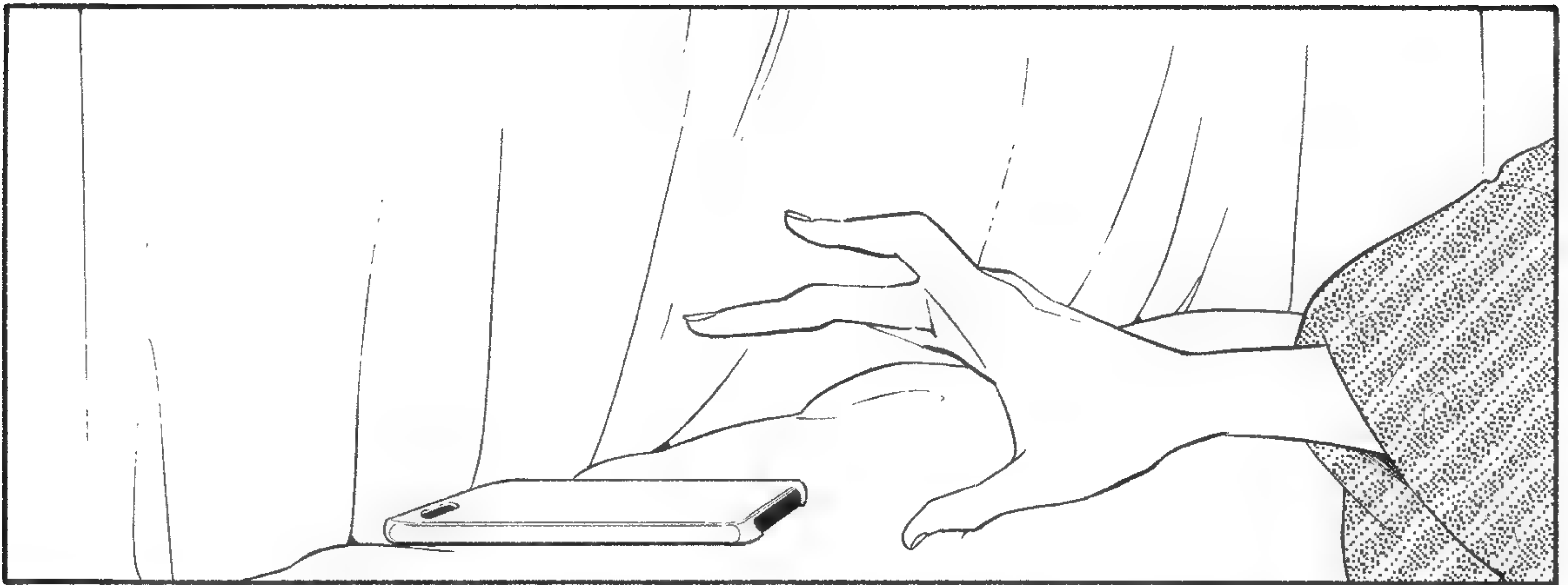
KNOCK



It's me again











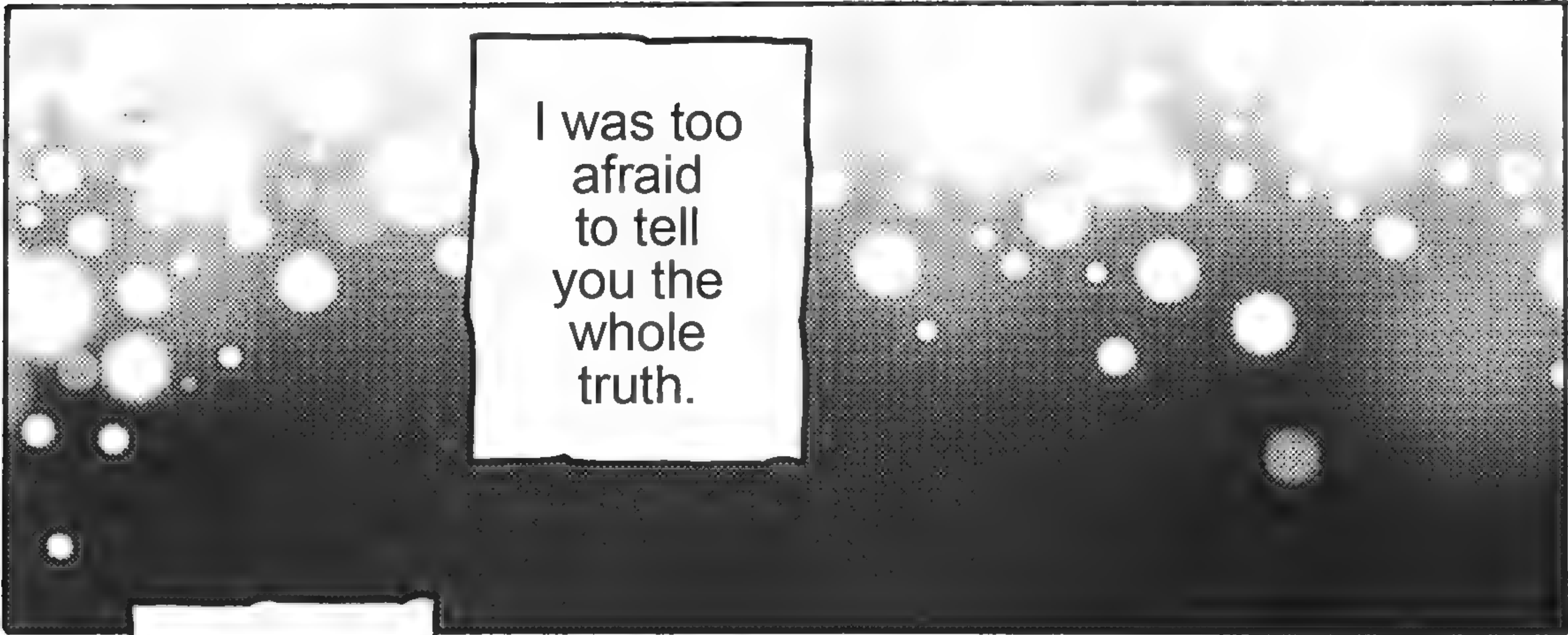
I was so  
excited...

to see  
you  
again.

I planned  
to show  
up alone,  
but...

I never  
meant for  
things to  
happen  
like this.





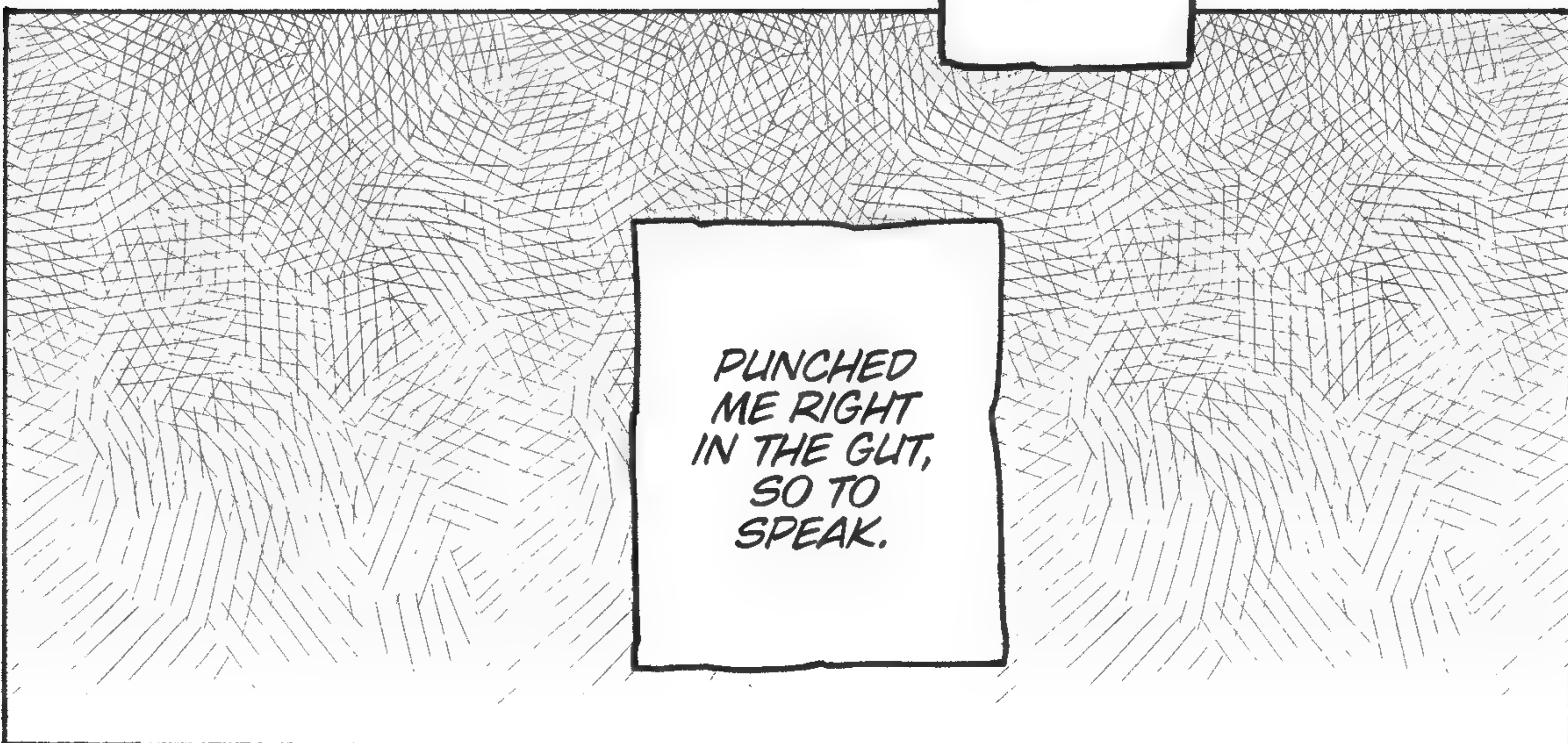
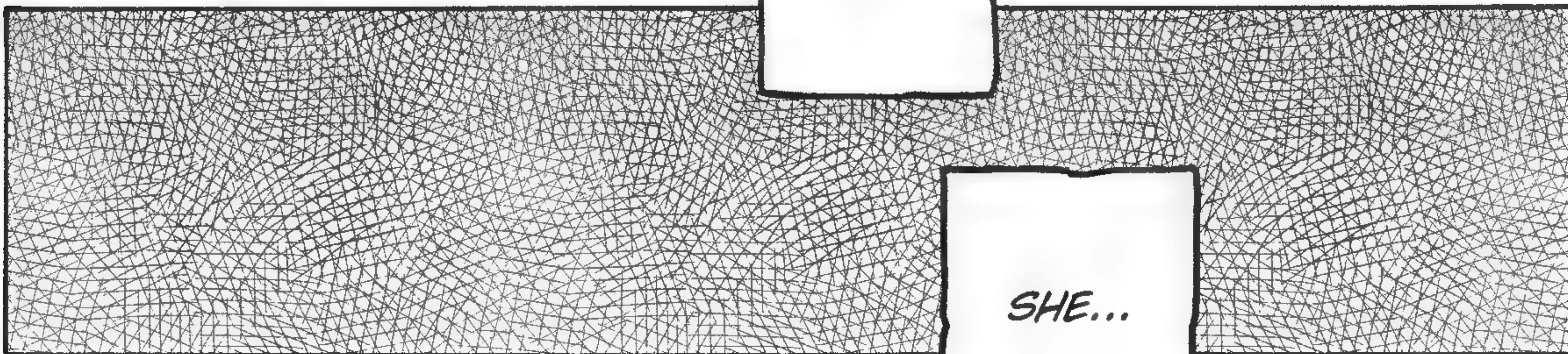
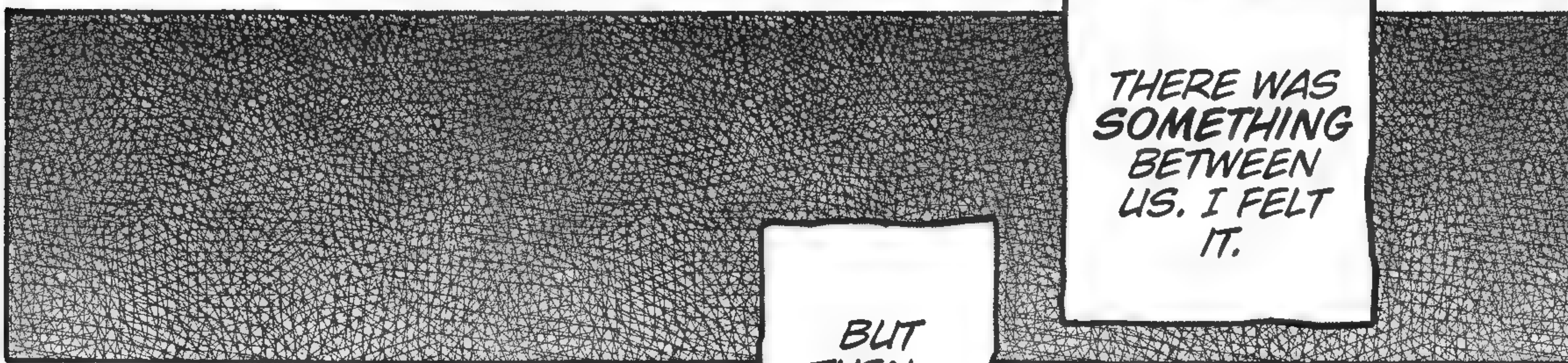
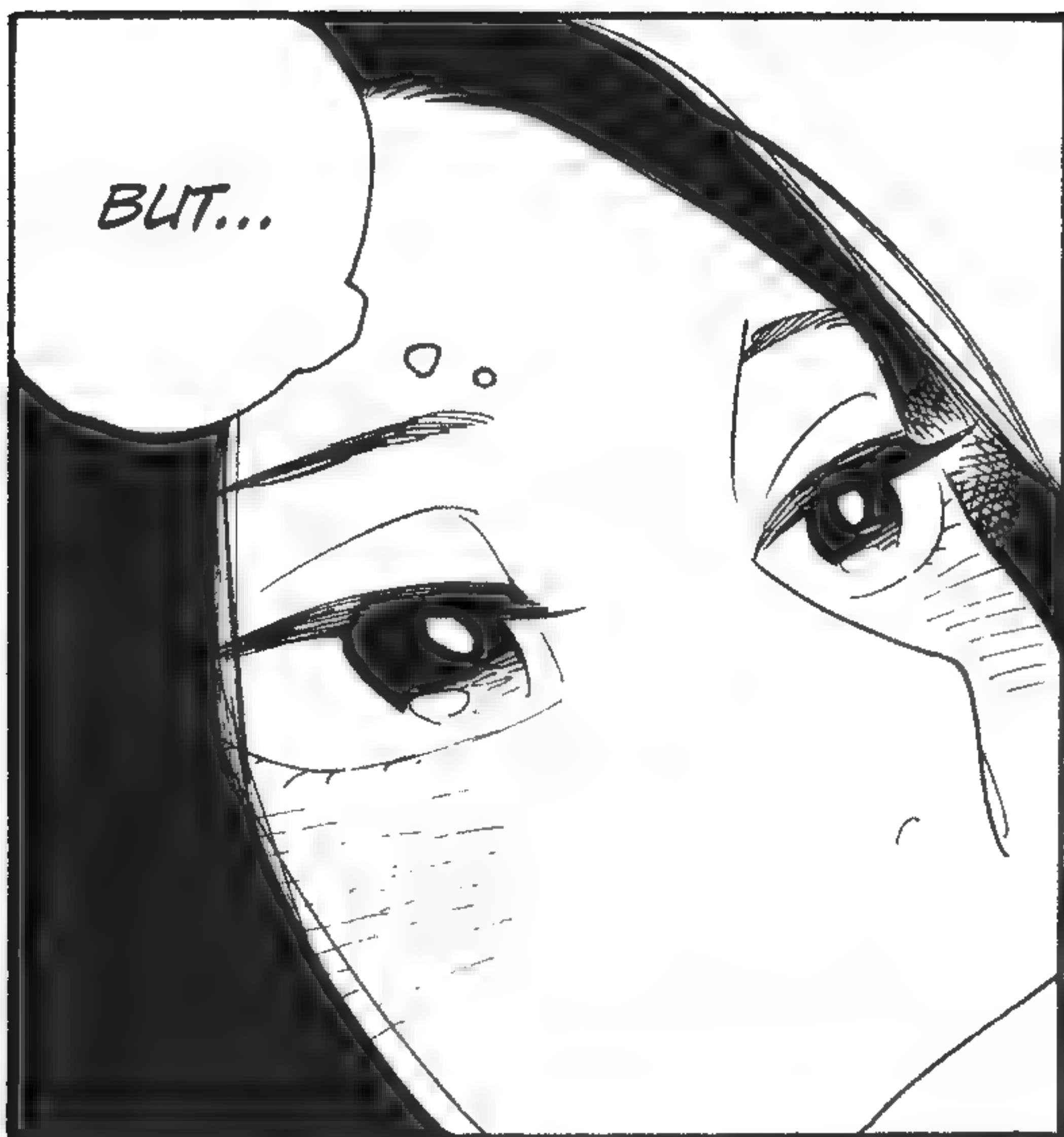
I was too  
afraid  
to tell  
you the  
whole  
truth.



I'm  
sorry.









I THOUGHT  
I'D FOUND  
A CUTE,  
INNOCENT  
GIRL.

TURNS OUT  
SHE WAS  
THE ONE  
PLAYING  
ME.

I  
WONDER...  
WAS IT  
FATE? IT  
FELT STAR-  
CROSSED.

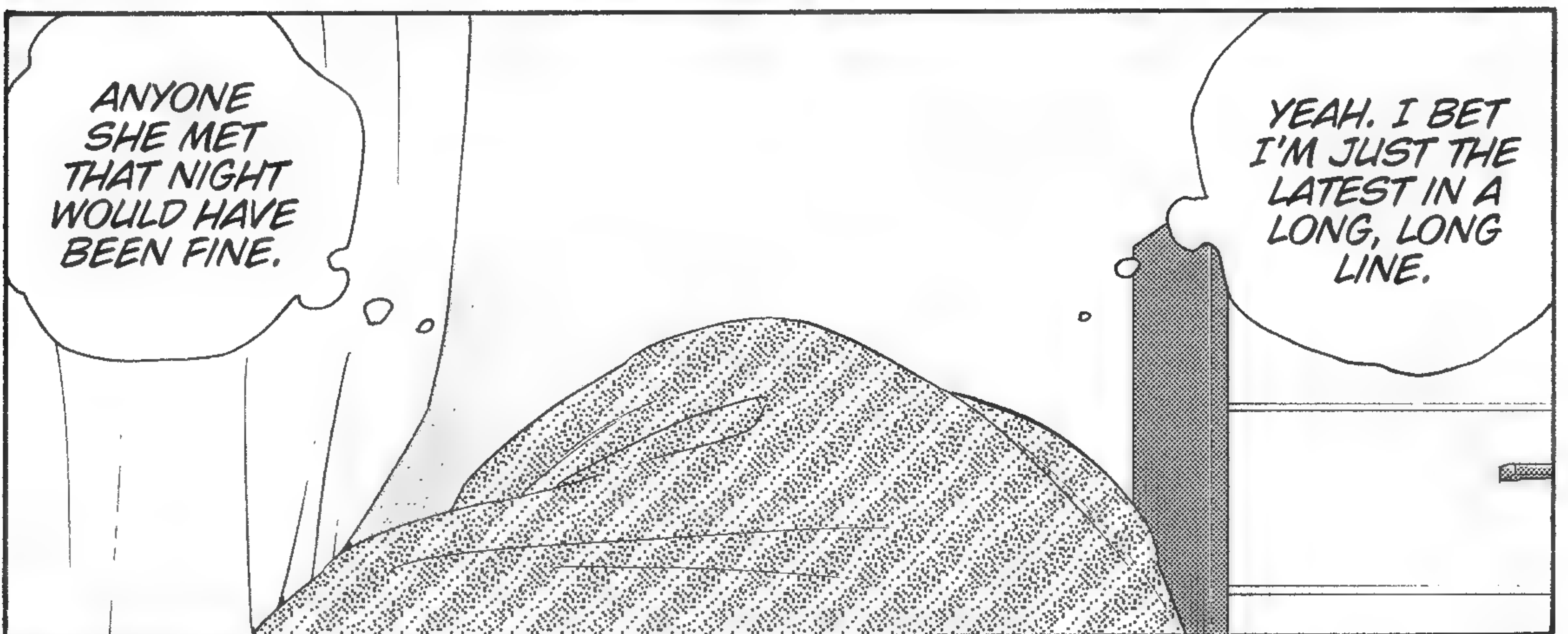
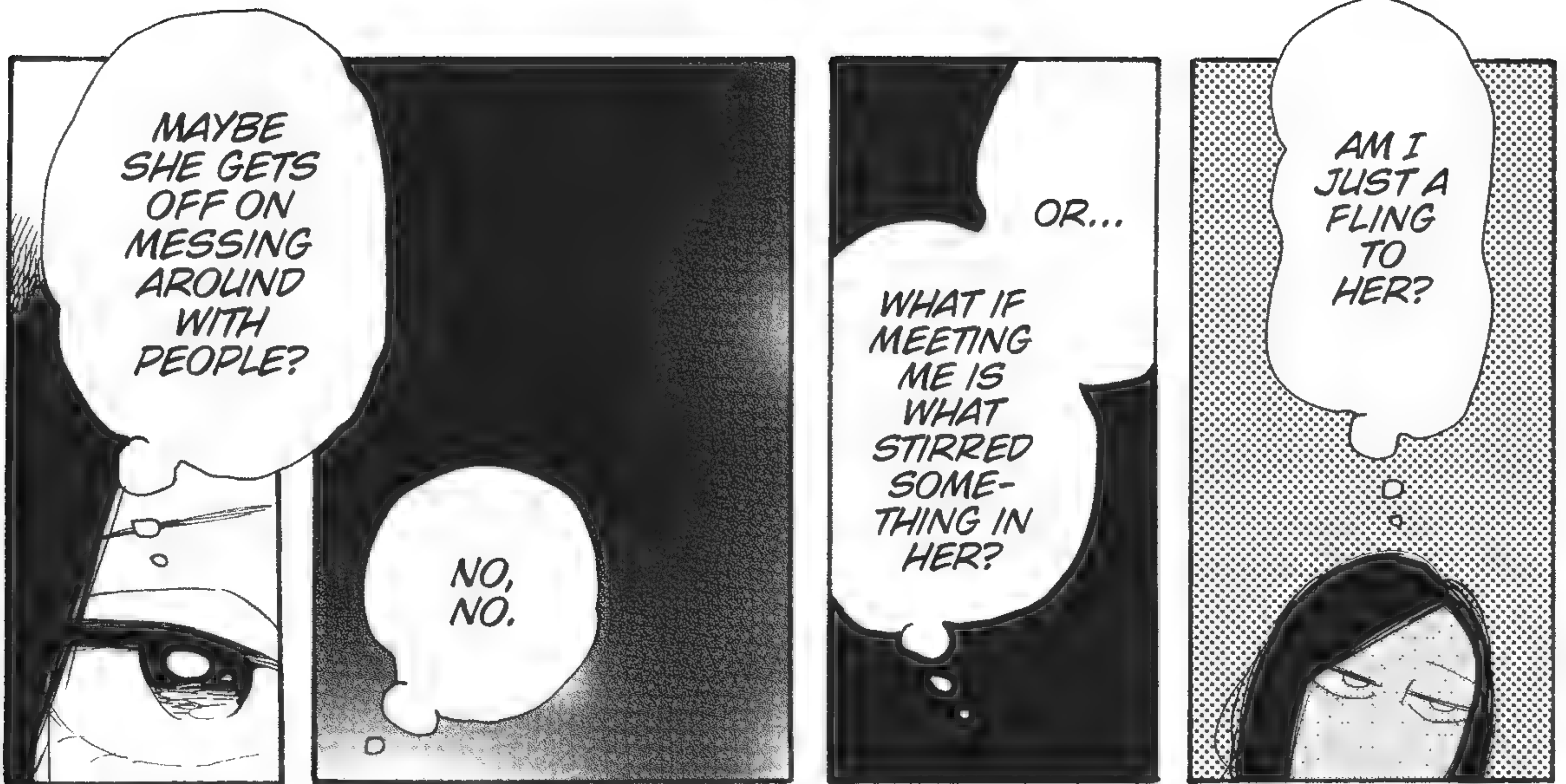
I'D  
ALREADY  
FALLEN  
HARD.

BUT  
THEN I  
FIND OUT...  
SHE'S  
GOT A  
HUSBAND.

NOW  
WHAT?



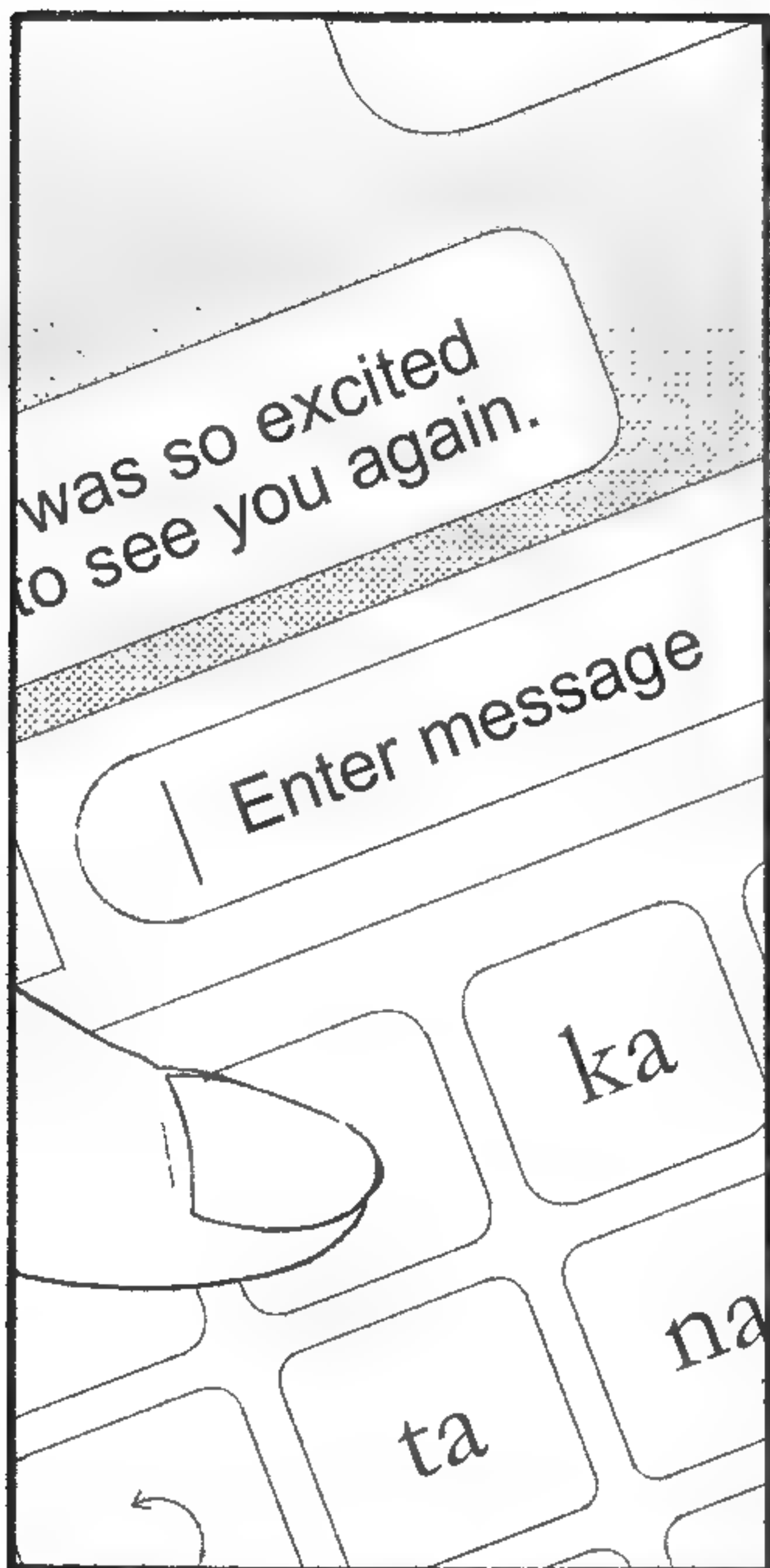




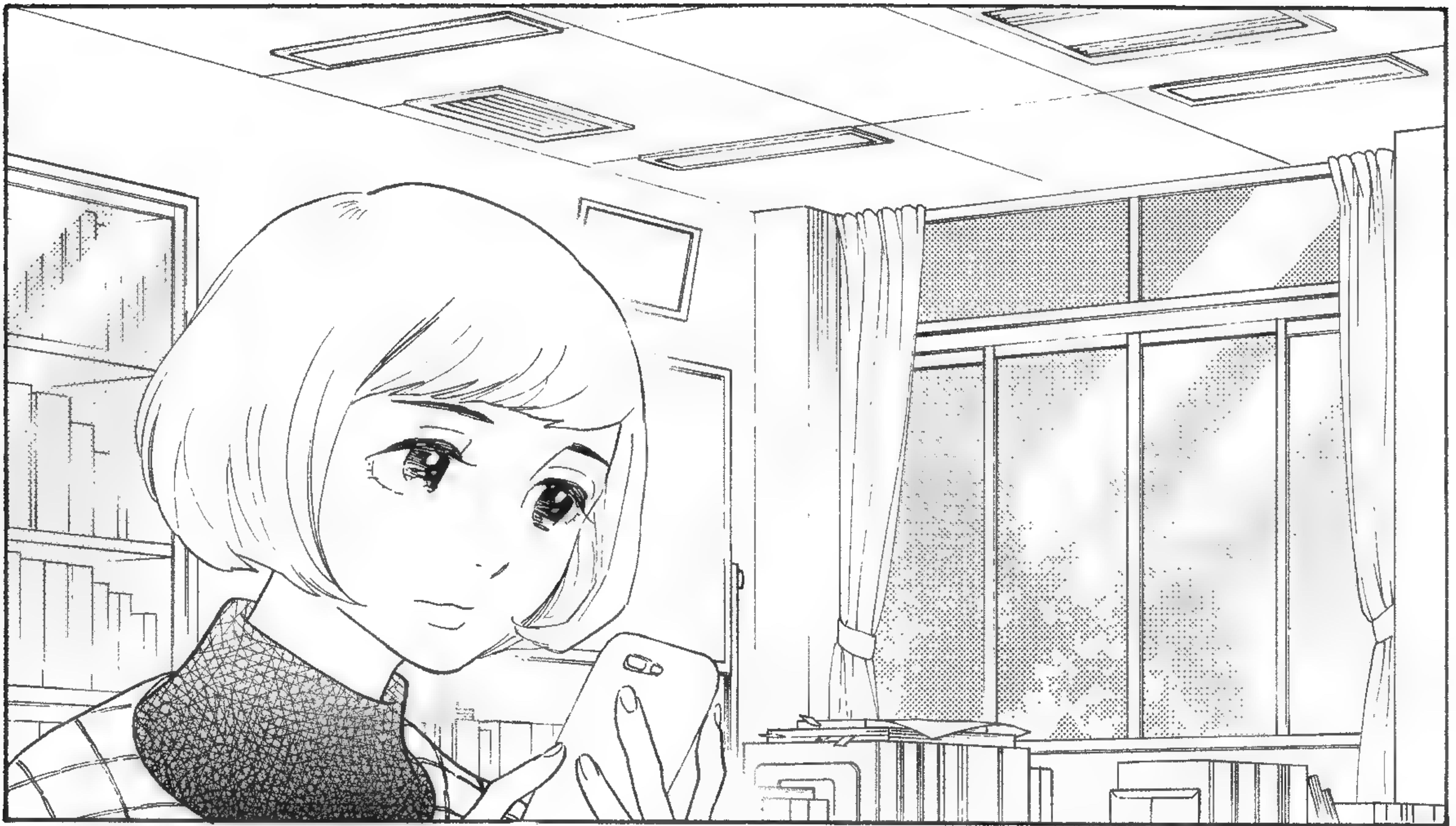









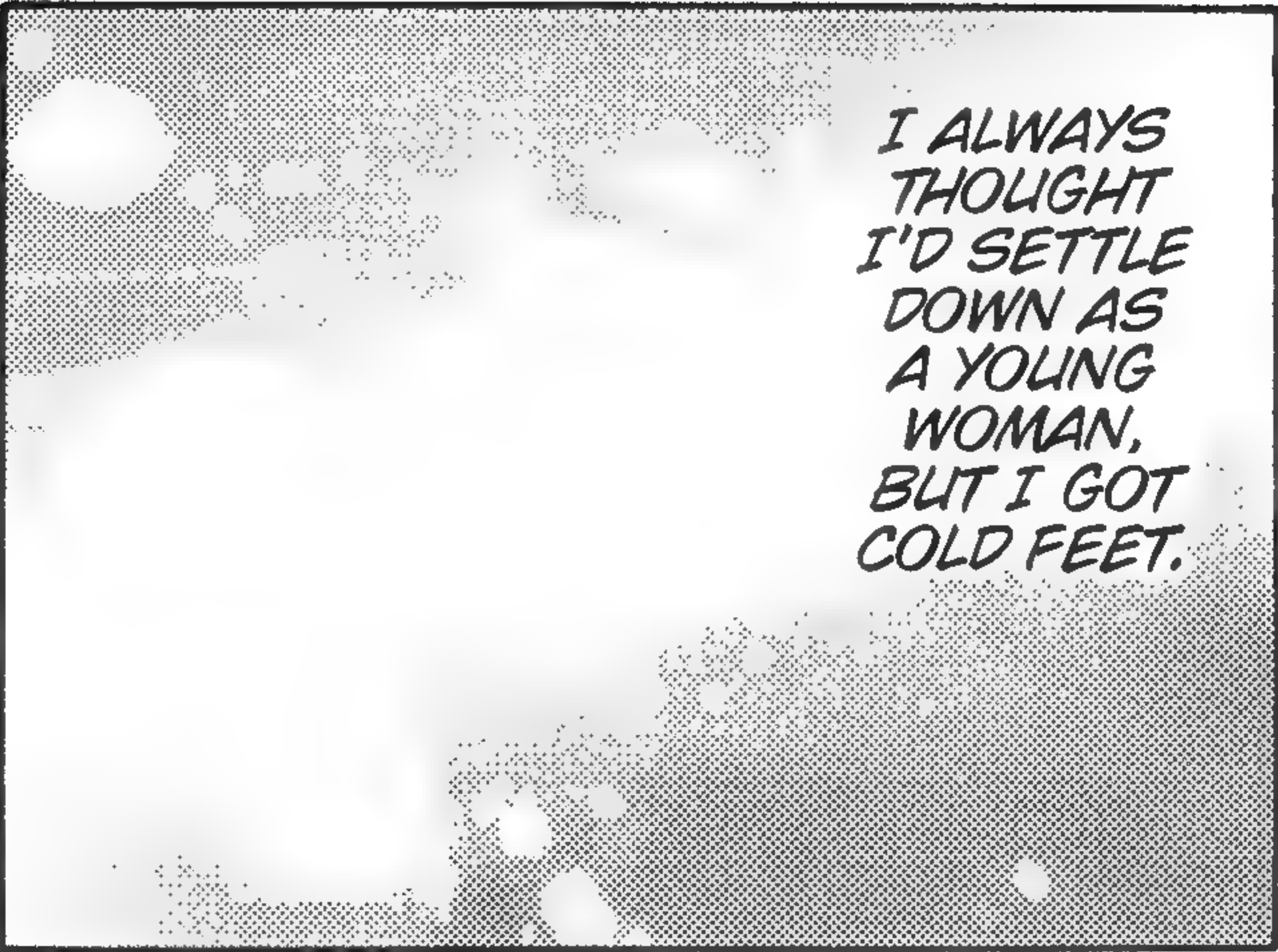








I HIT  
TWENTY-  
FIVE AND  
KEPT  
PUTTING  
OFF HAVING  
A SERIOUS  
RELATION-  
SHIP.



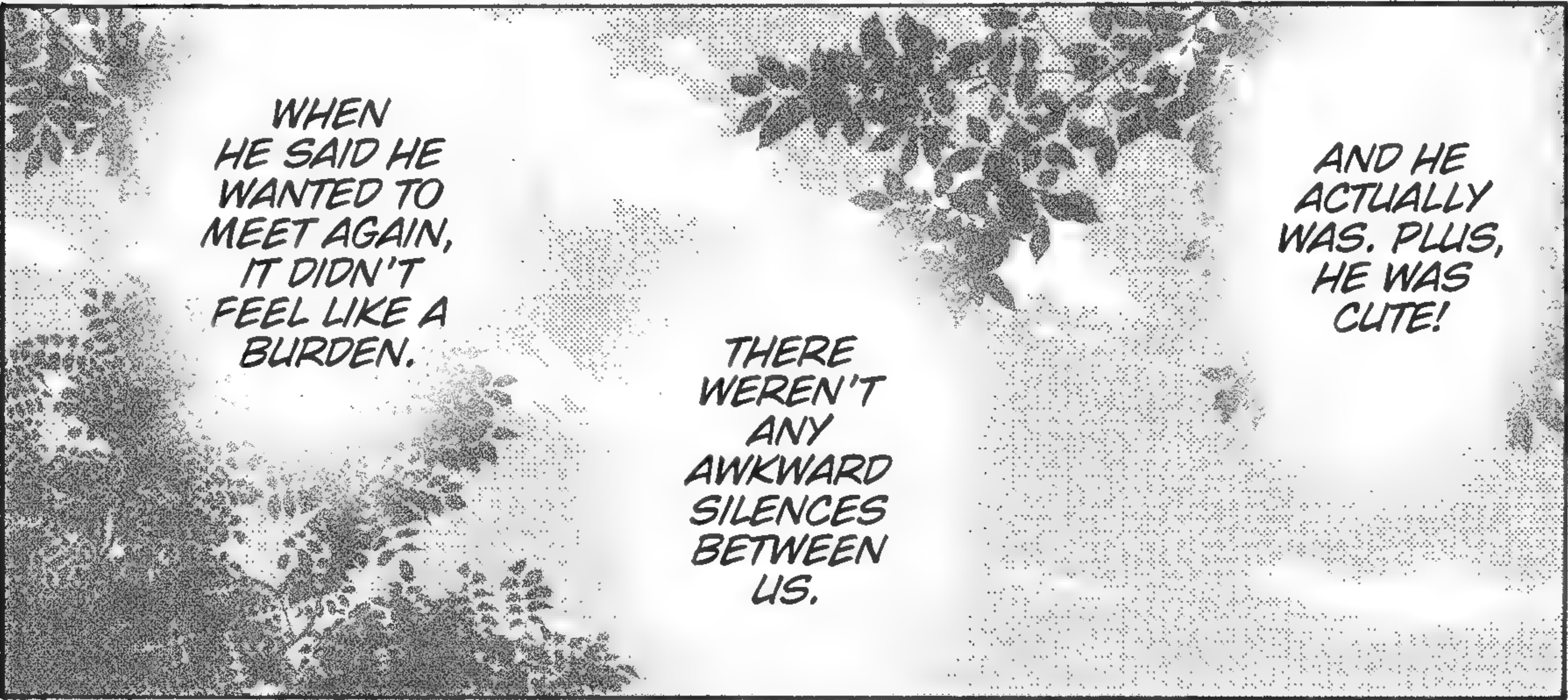
I ALWAYS  
THOUGHT  
I'D SETTLE  
DOWN AS  
A YOUNG  
WOMAN,  
BUT I GOT  
COLD FEET.



HE'S A  
GOOD  
MAN.



HE  
SEEMED  
NICE  
WHEN  
WE MET.

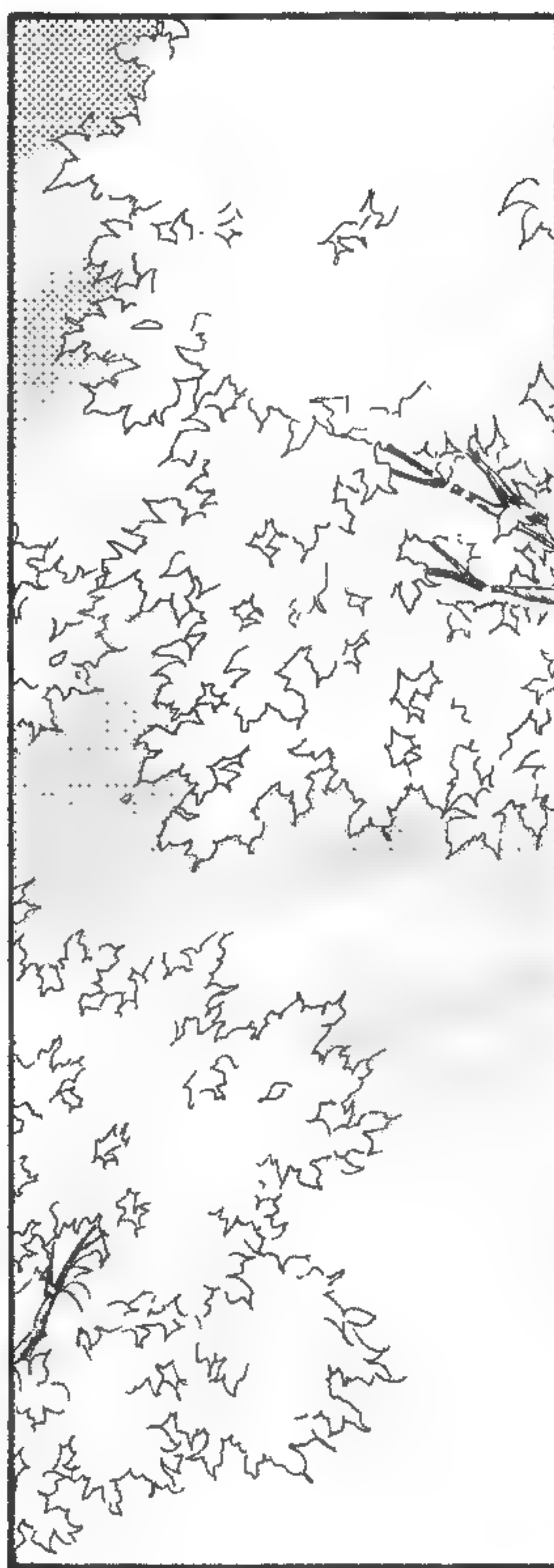
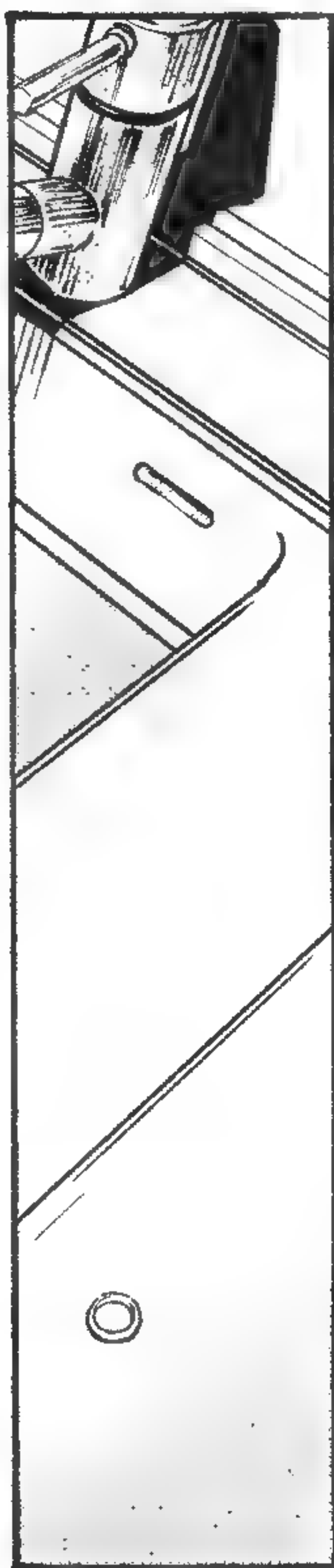
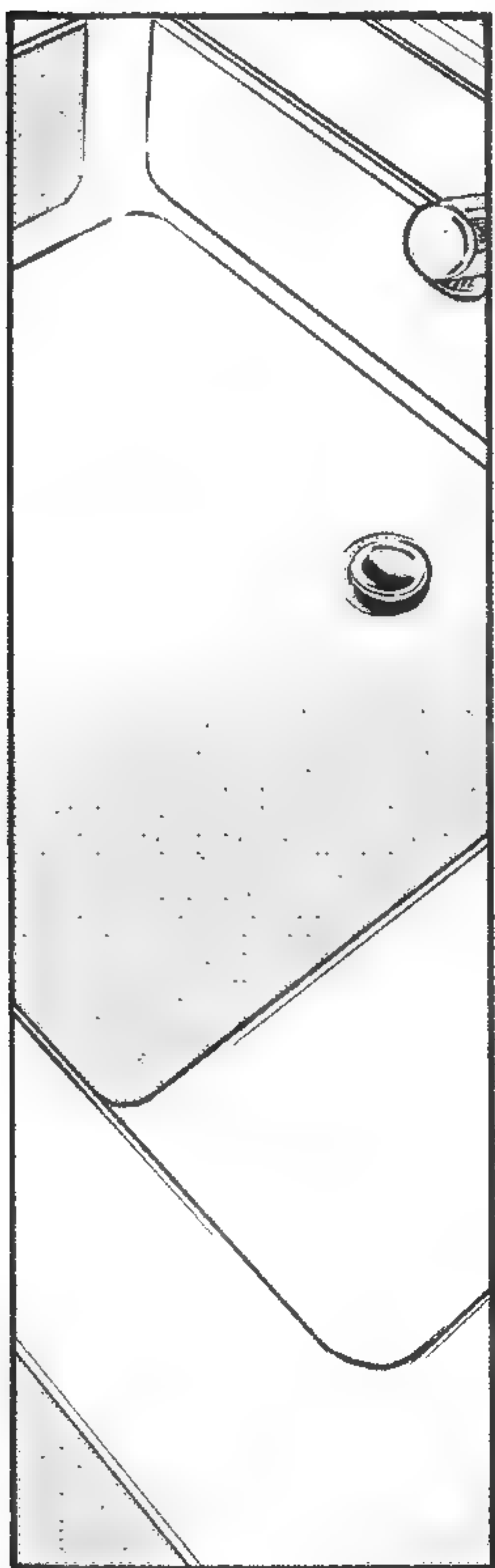
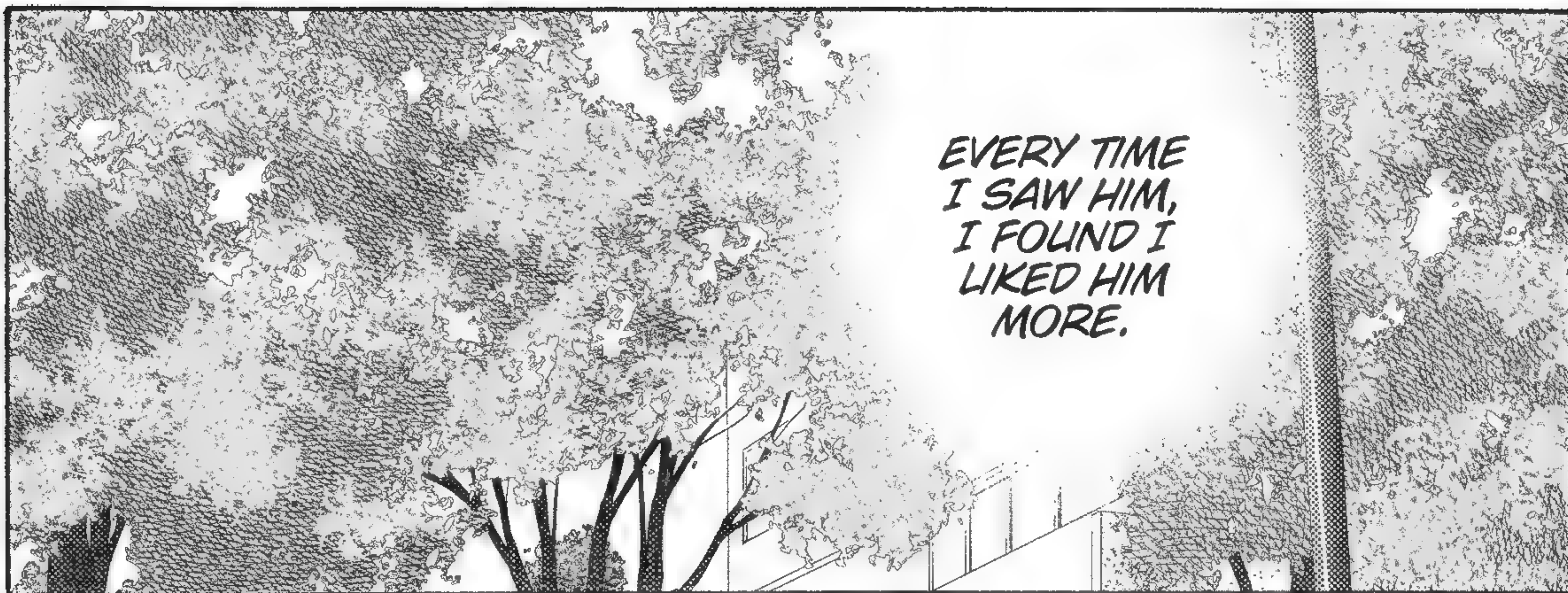


WHEN  
HE SAID HE  
WANTED TO  
MEET AGAIN,  
IT DIDN'T  
FEEL LIKE A  
BURDEN.

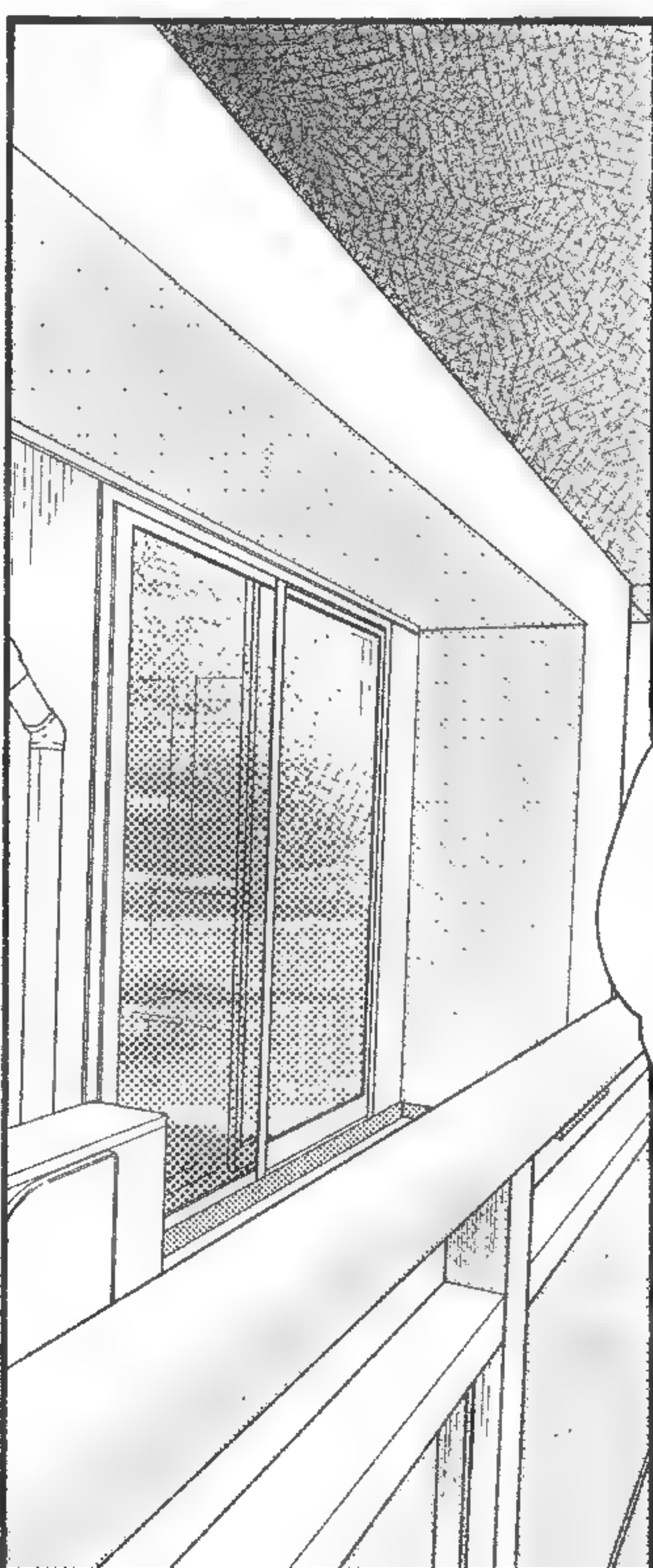
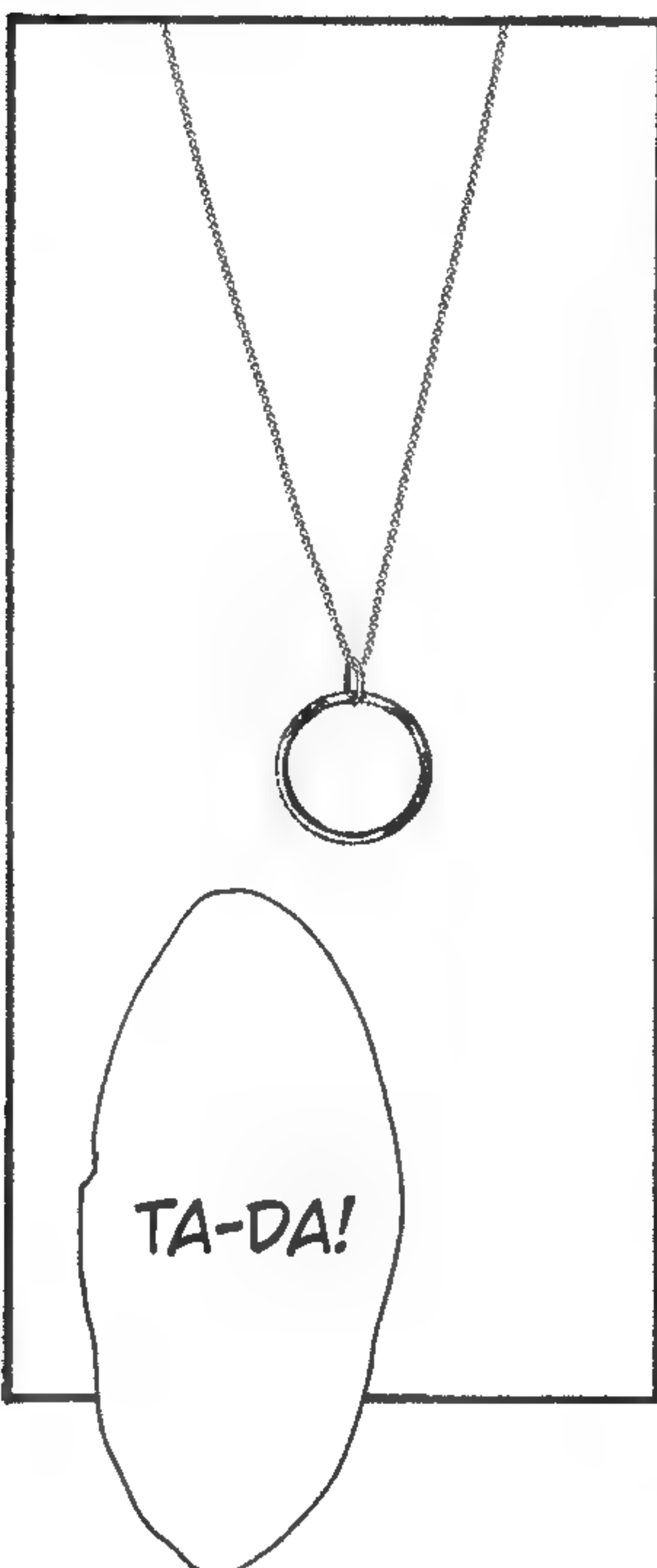
THERE  
WEREN'T  
ANY  
AWKWARD  
SILENCES  
BETWEEN  
US.

AND HE  
ACTUALLY  
WAS. PLUS,  
HE WAS  
CUTE!

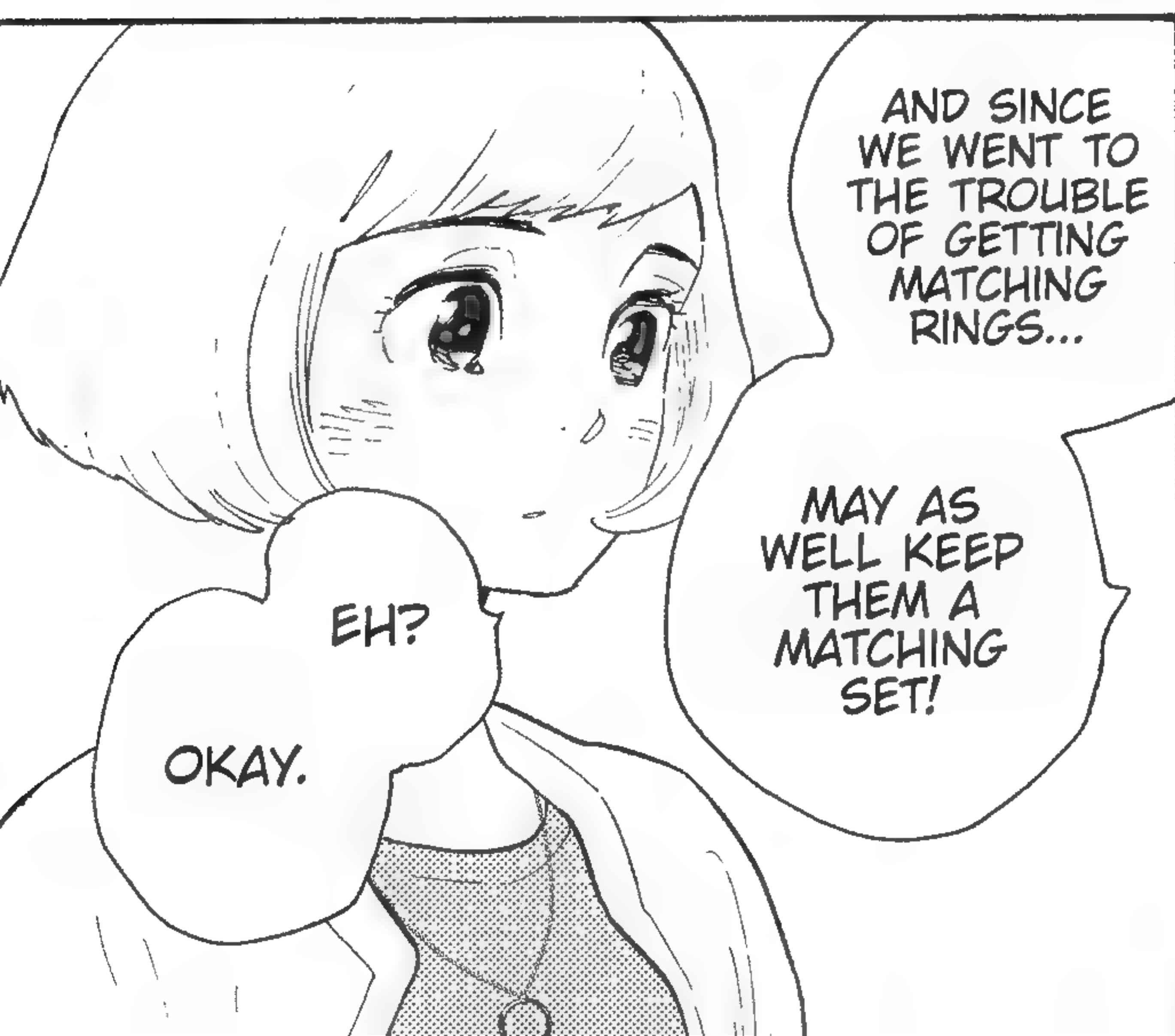
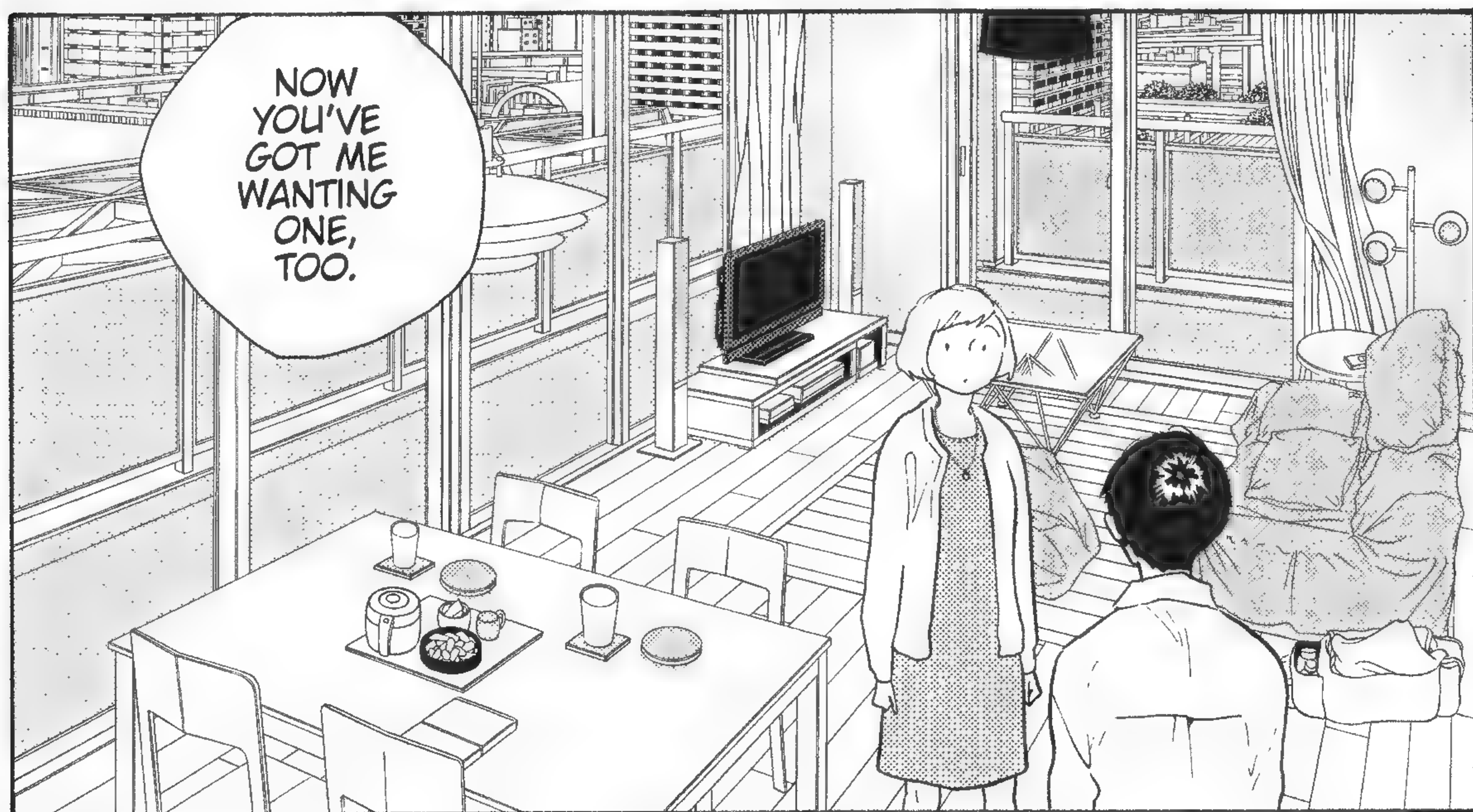




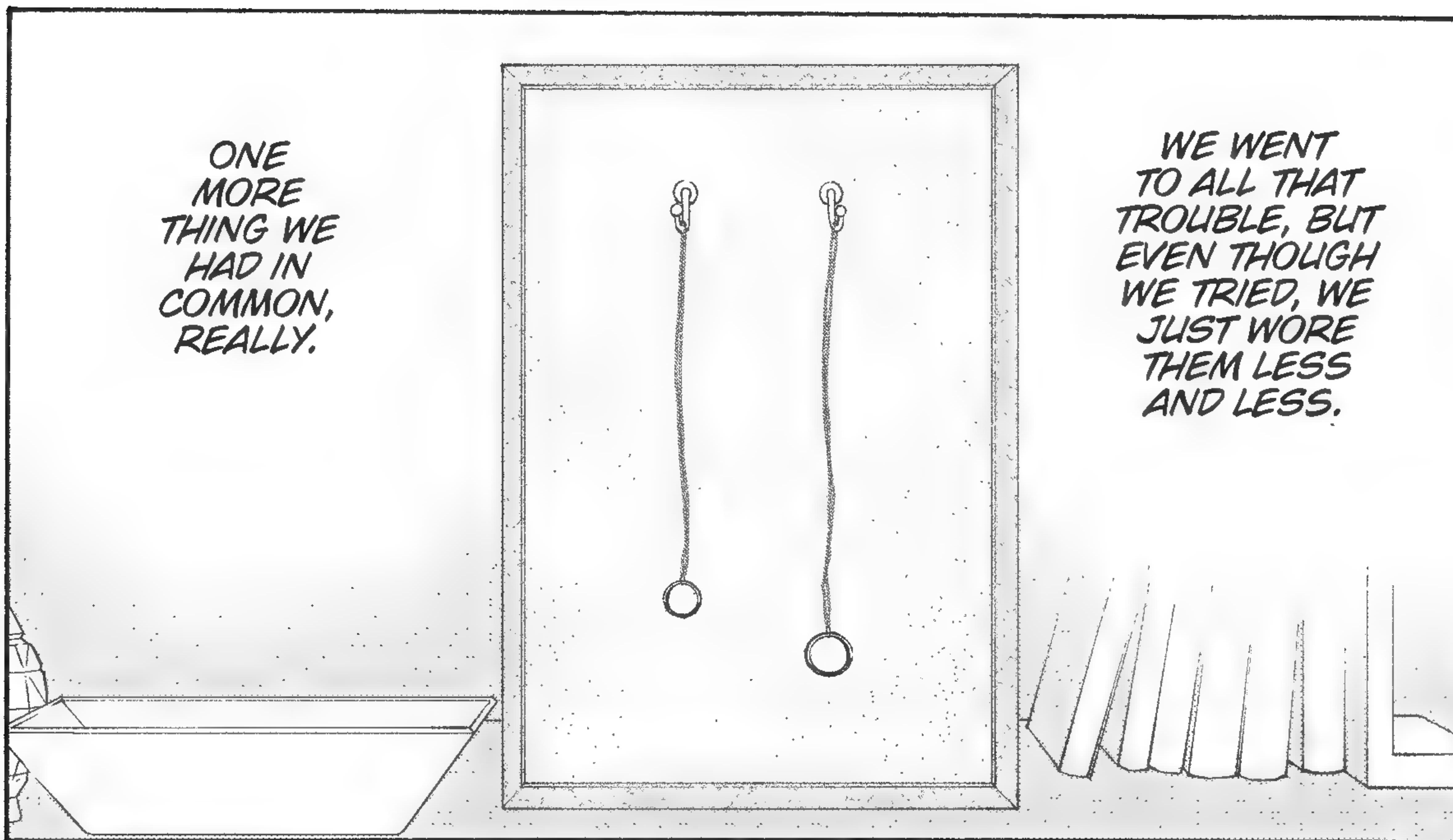












ONE  
MORE  
THING WE  
HAD IN  
COMMON,  
REALLY.

WE WENT  
TO ALL THAT  
TROUBLE, BUT  
EVEN THOUGH  
WE TRIED, WE  
JUST WORE  
THEM LESS  
AND LESS.



THE  
DAY I  
MET  
HER...



THAT  
DAY OF  
ALL  
DAYS...



WHY  
DID I  
FORGET  
MY  
RING?

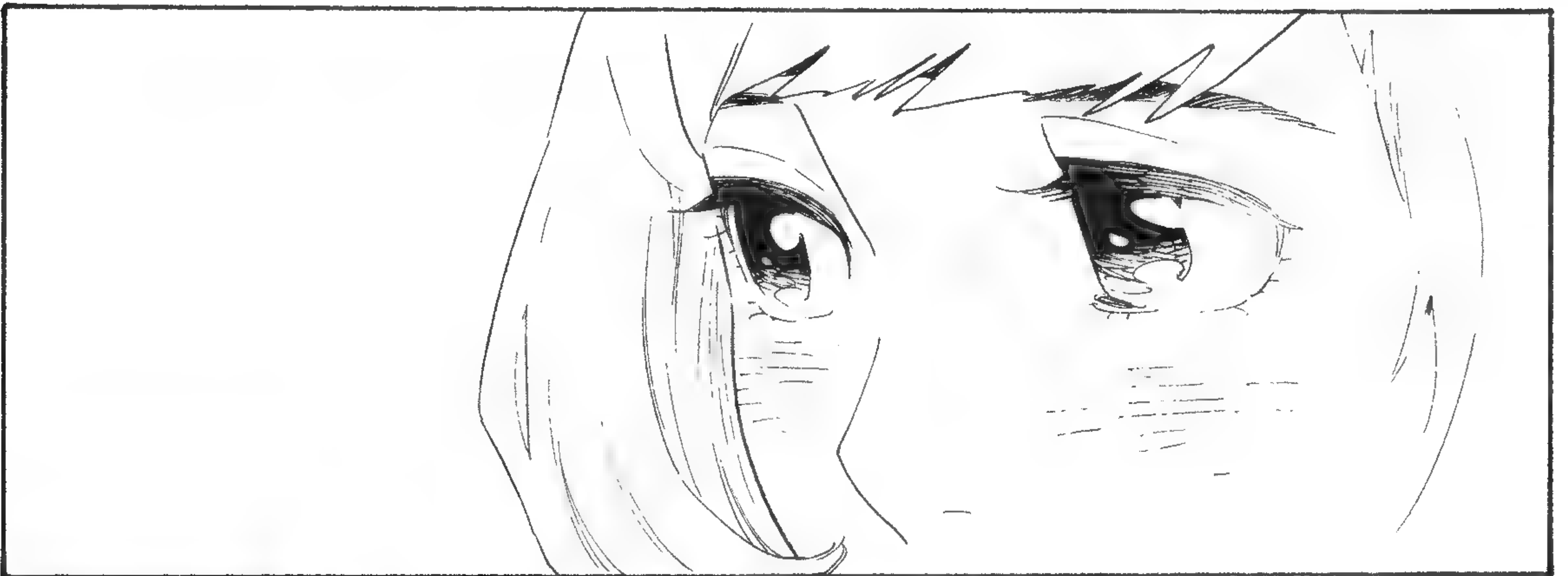
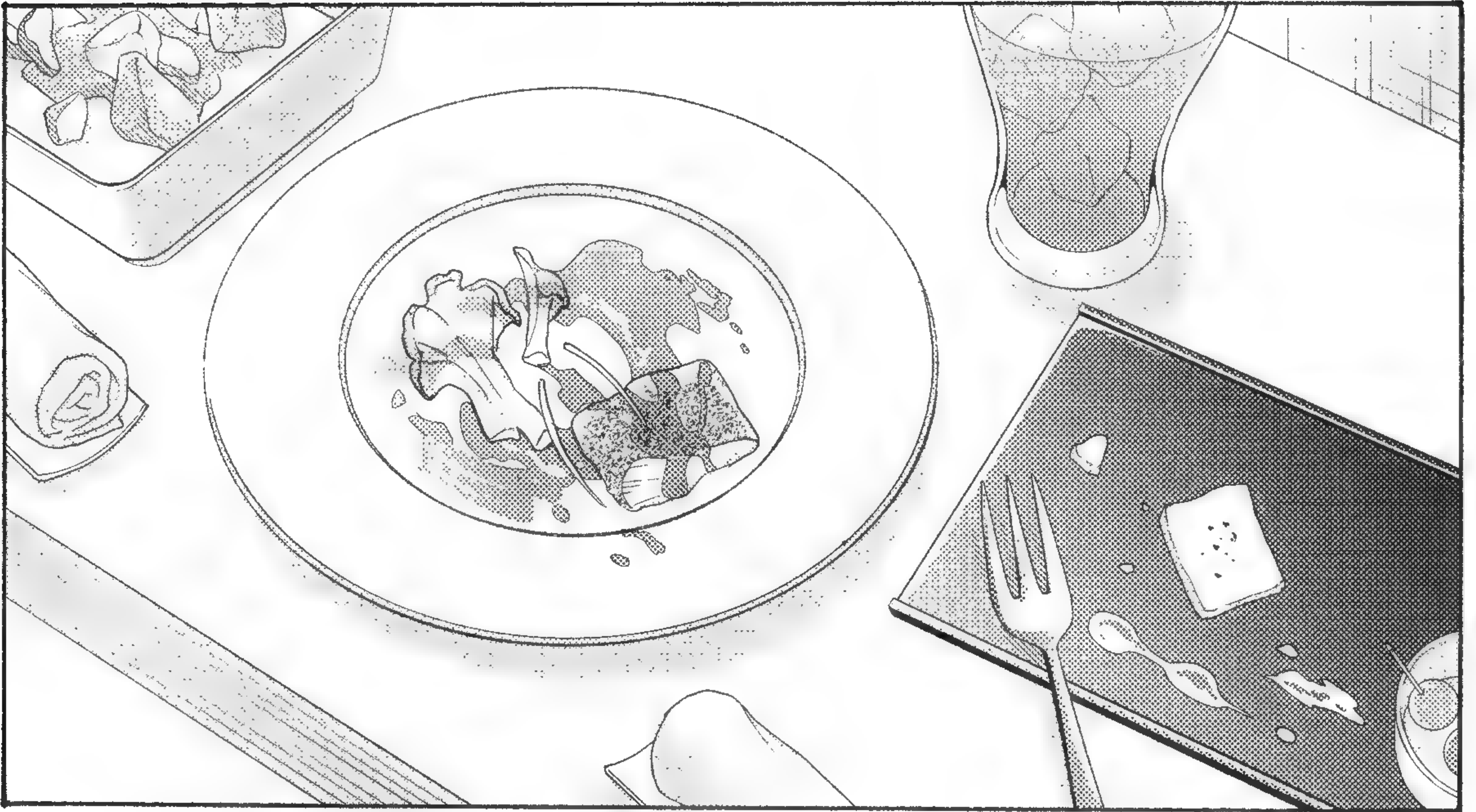


SO THEY  
ENDED  
UP BEING  
LOVELY  
PIECES OF  
ART.

LOOKS  
GOOD!

RIGHT?







I'D NEVER  
WANTED  
ANYTHING SO  
BADLY IN MY  
WHOLE LIFE.

I'VE HAD  
TIMES WHERE  
I WAS WITH  
SOMEONE I  
WAS INTO...

AND THE  
MOMENT  
SEEMED  
RIGHT.

SO WE'D  
CHECK IN WITH  
ONE ANOTHER,  
GAUGE OUR  
FEELINGS, OUR  
INTEREST.

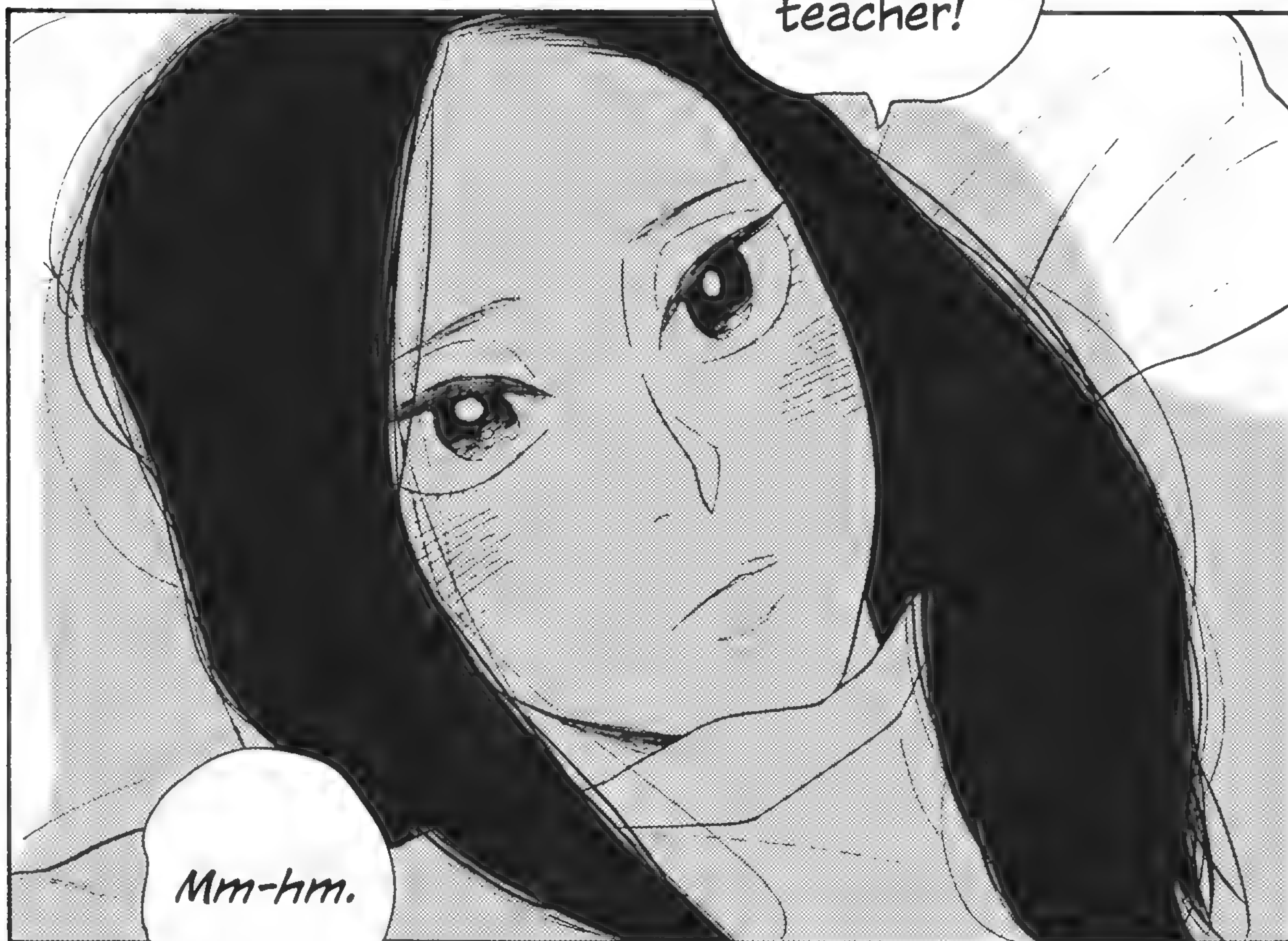


I WANTED  
TO KISS  
HER.





Wow.  
Pretty  
pervy  
for a  
teacher!



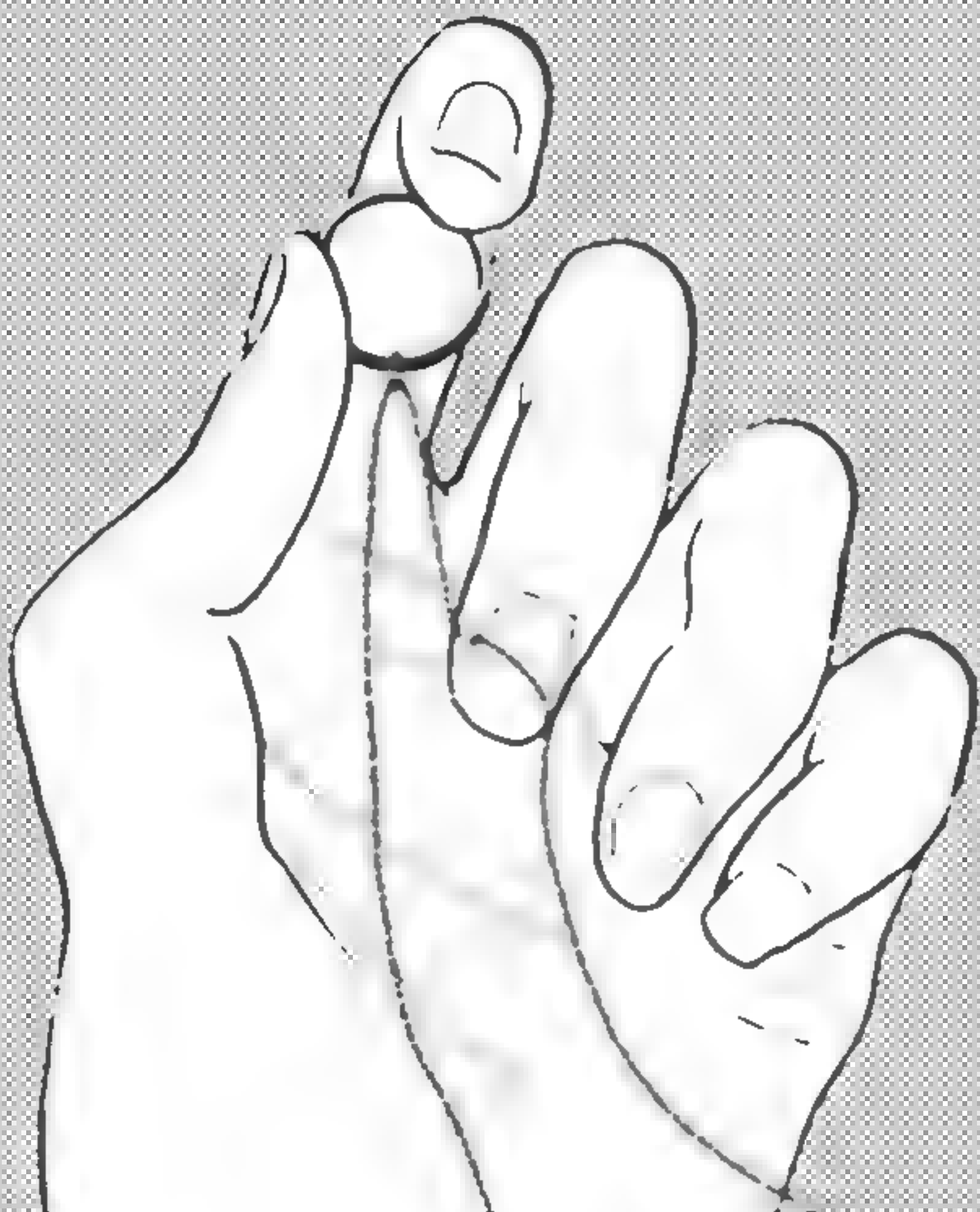
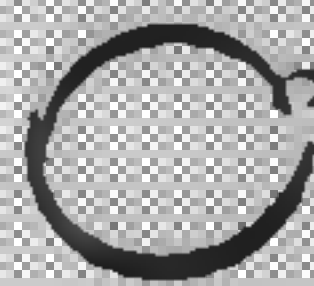
Mm-hm.



I WANTED  
TO SEE  
HER  
AGAIN.

Can I  
see you  
again?

I THOUGHT  
I'D JUST  
FORGOTTEN  
MY RING  
LIKE ANY  
OTHER DAY.



NOW...

BUT  
NOW?



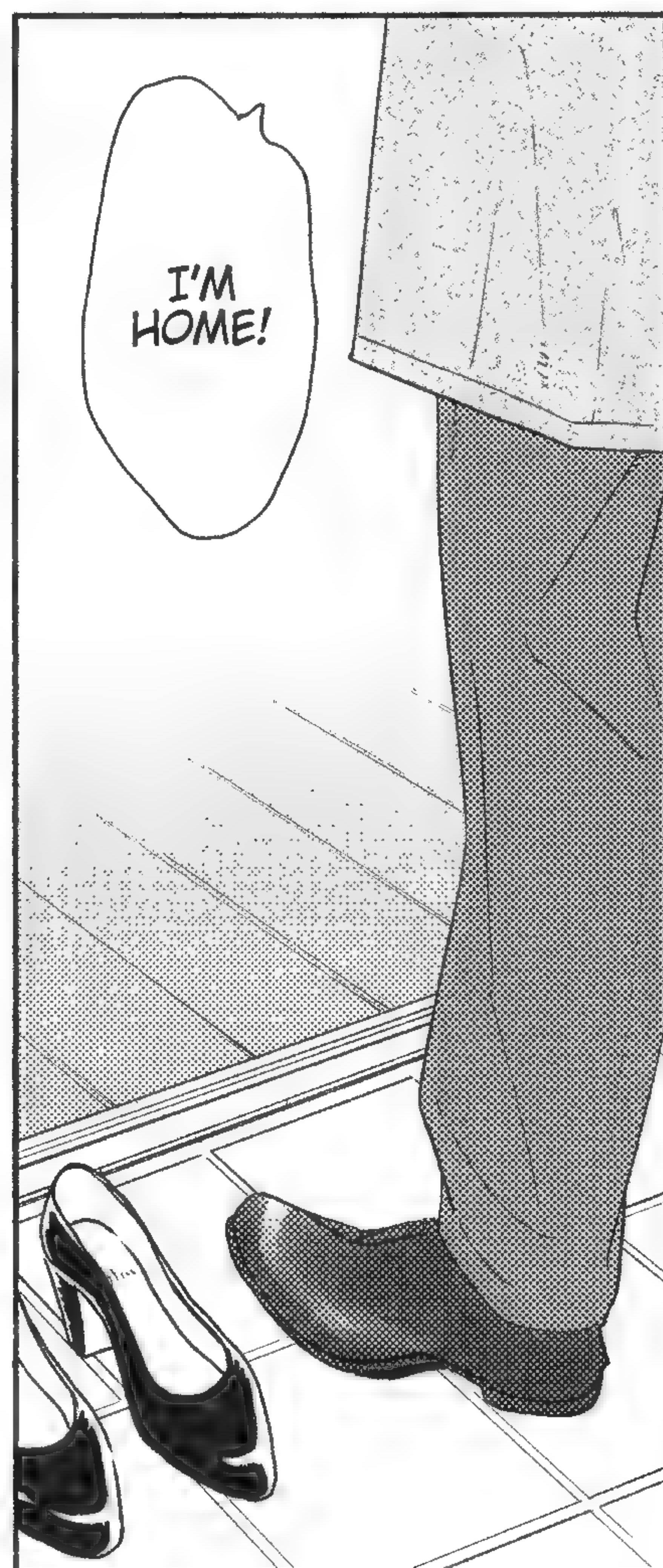


YOU'RE  
HOME  
NICE AND  
EARLY!

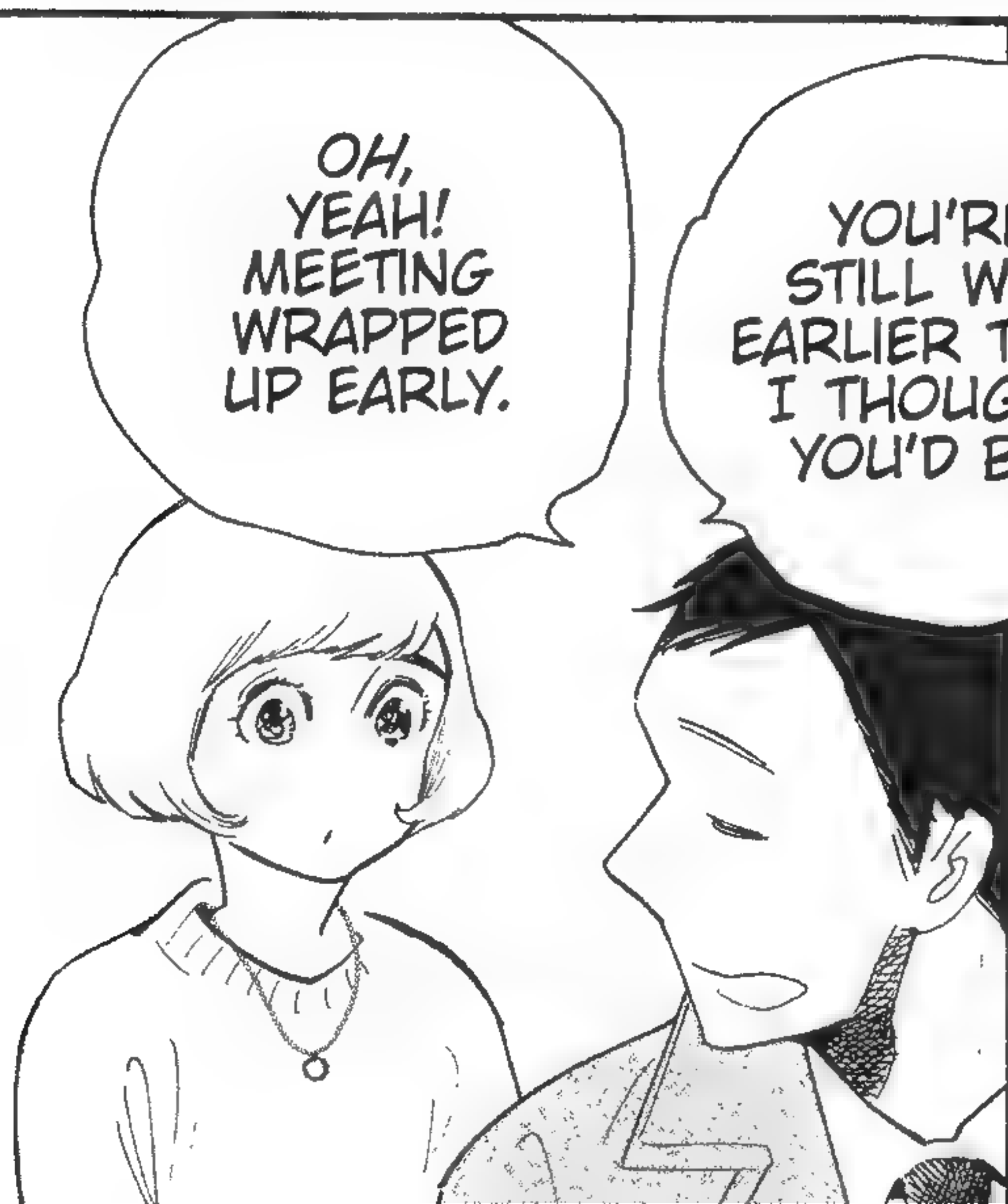
OH!  
HI!



SIGH!



I'M  
HOME!

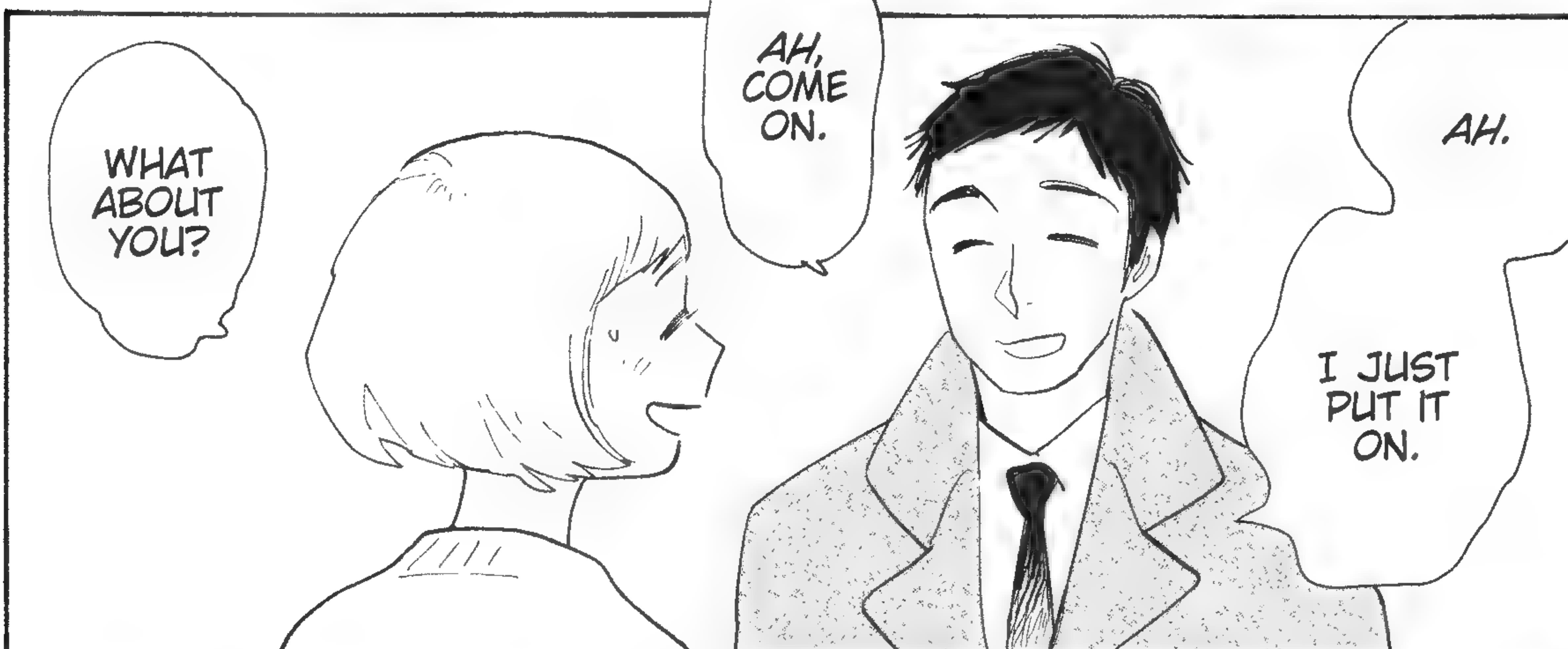
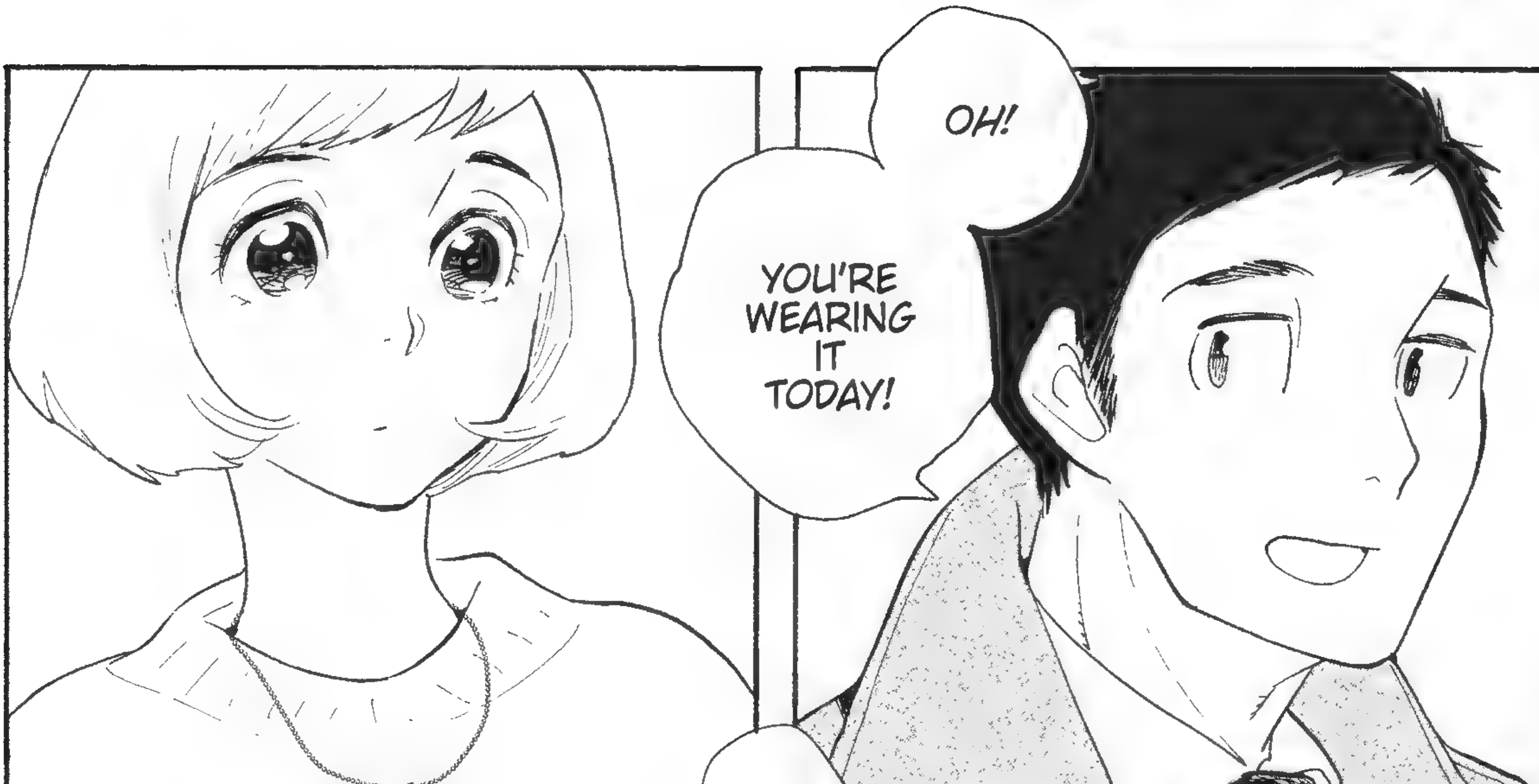


OH,  
YEAH!  
MEETING  
WRAPPED  
UP EARLY.

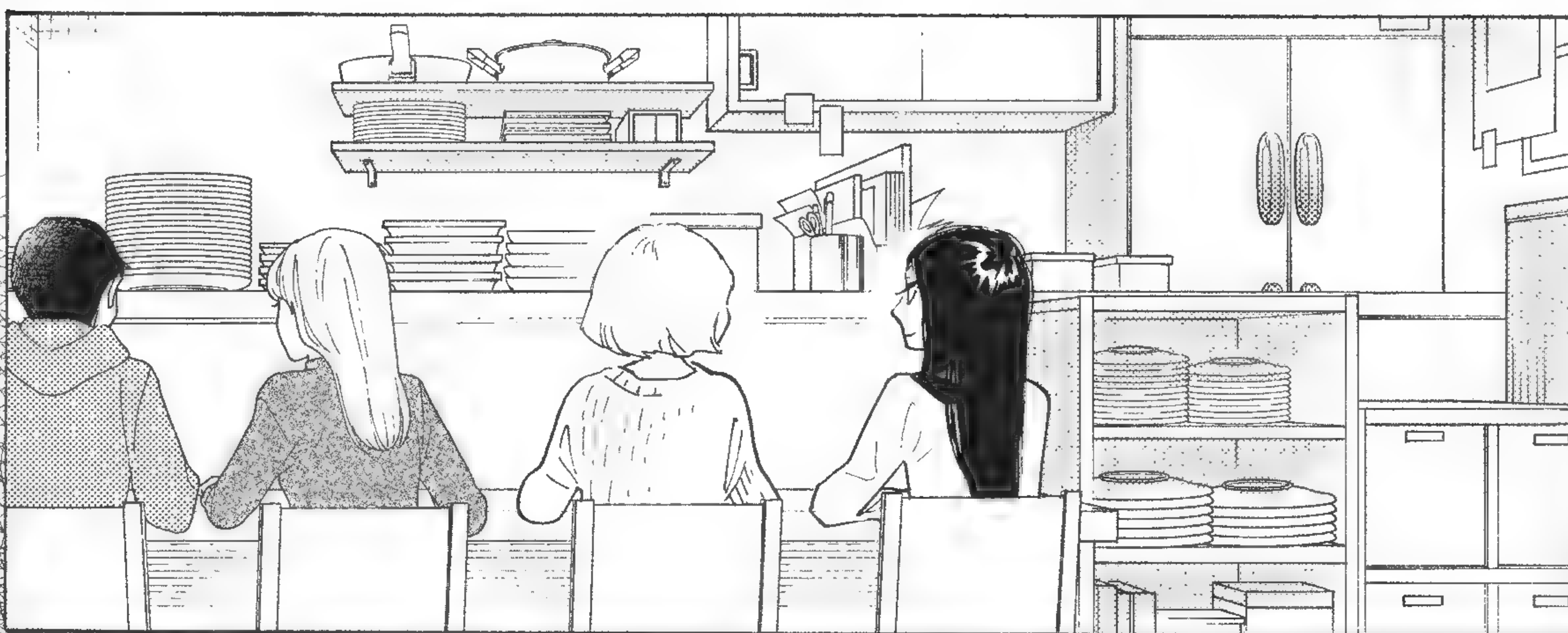
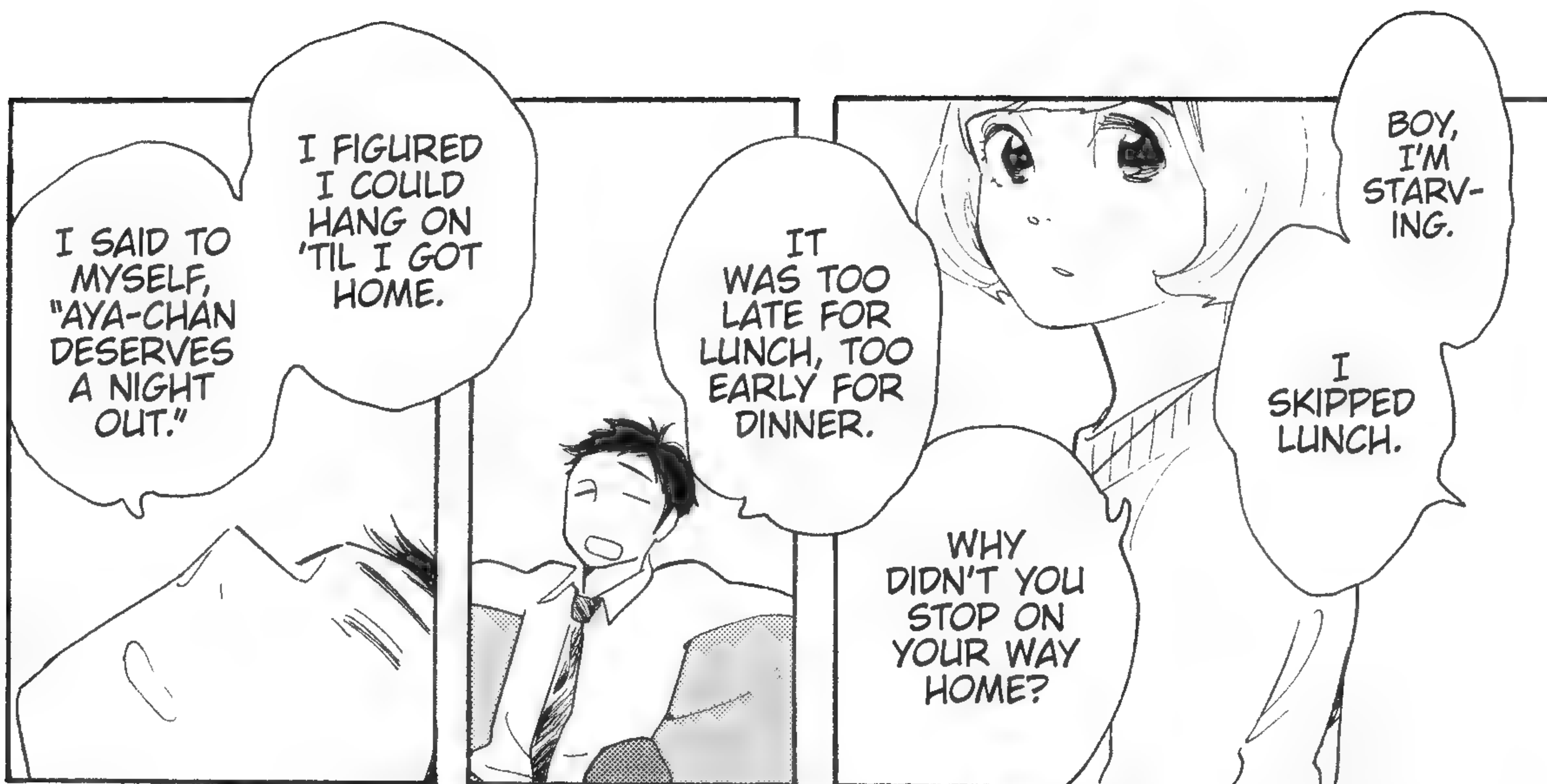
YOU'RE  
STILL WAY  
EARLIER THAN  
I THOUGHT  
YOU'D BE.

UGH!  
BUT  
I GOT  
STUCK IN  
TRAFFIC!

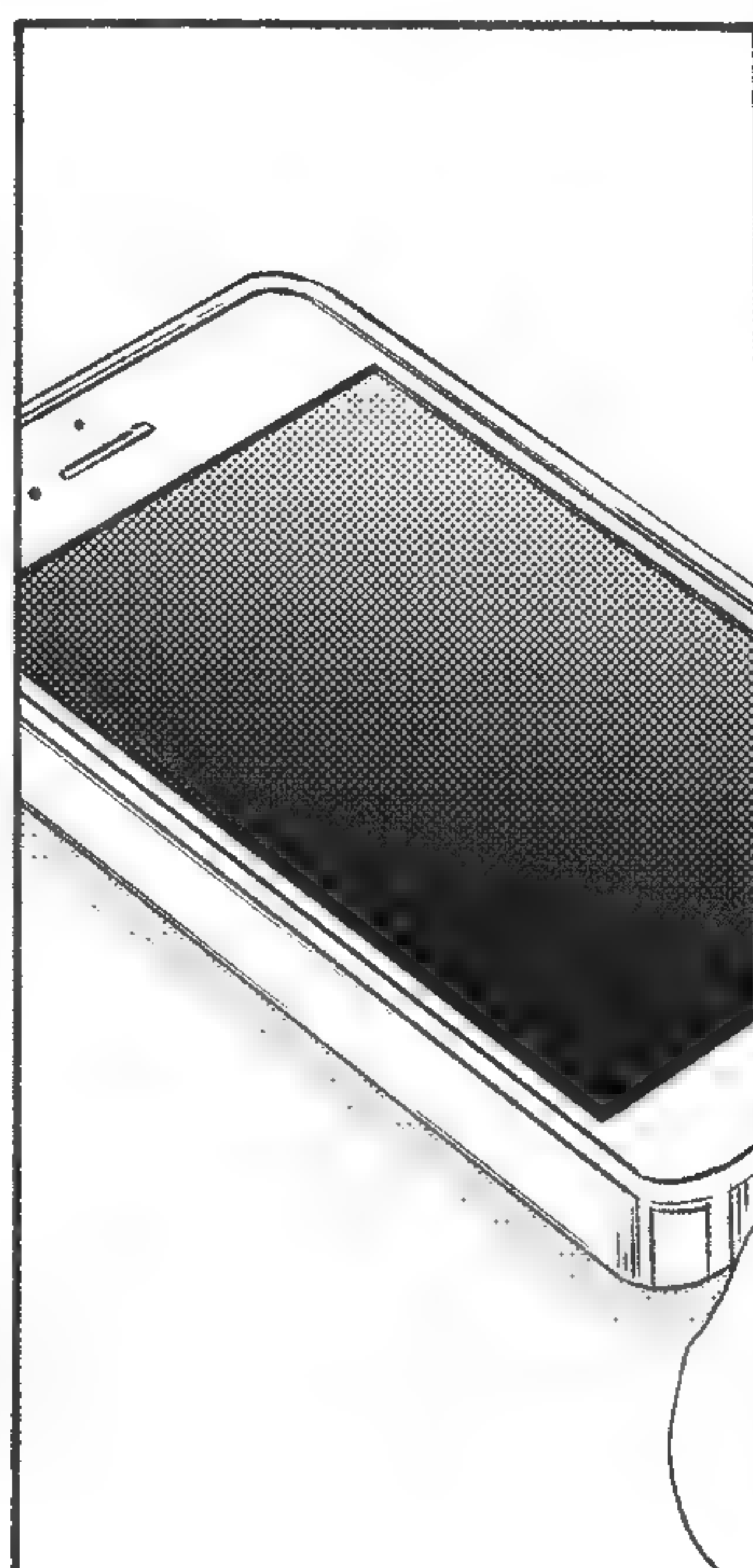
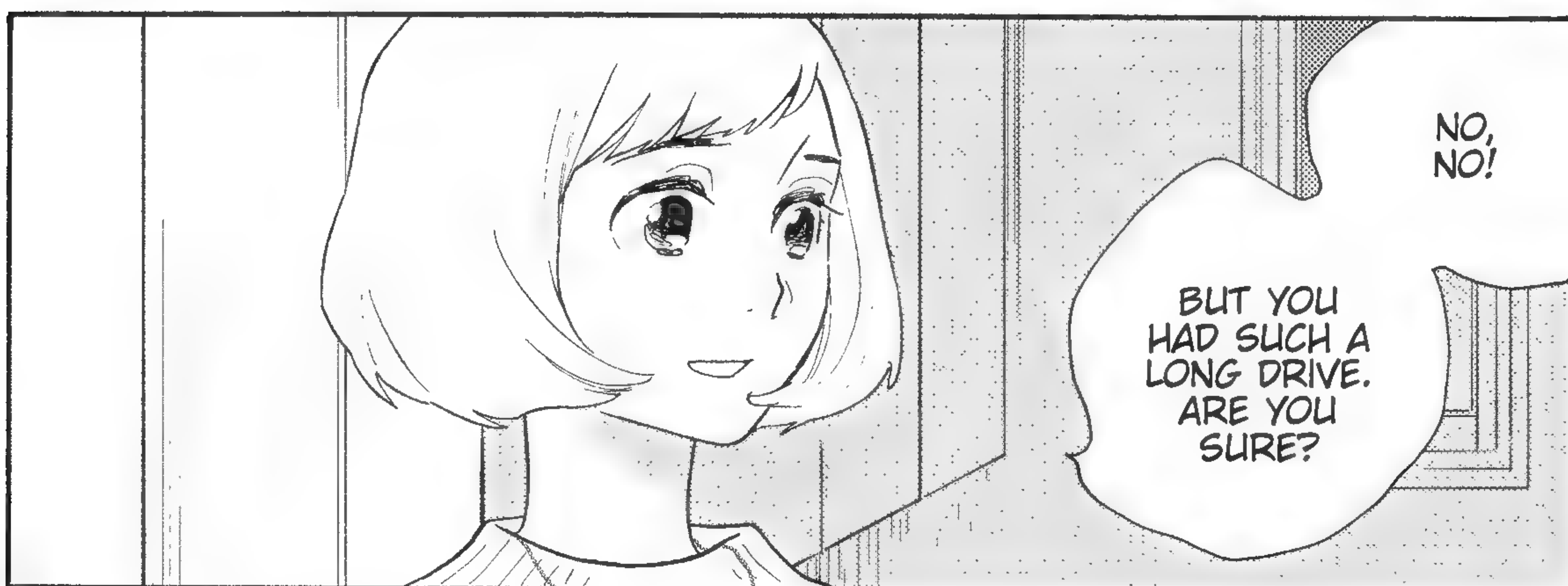
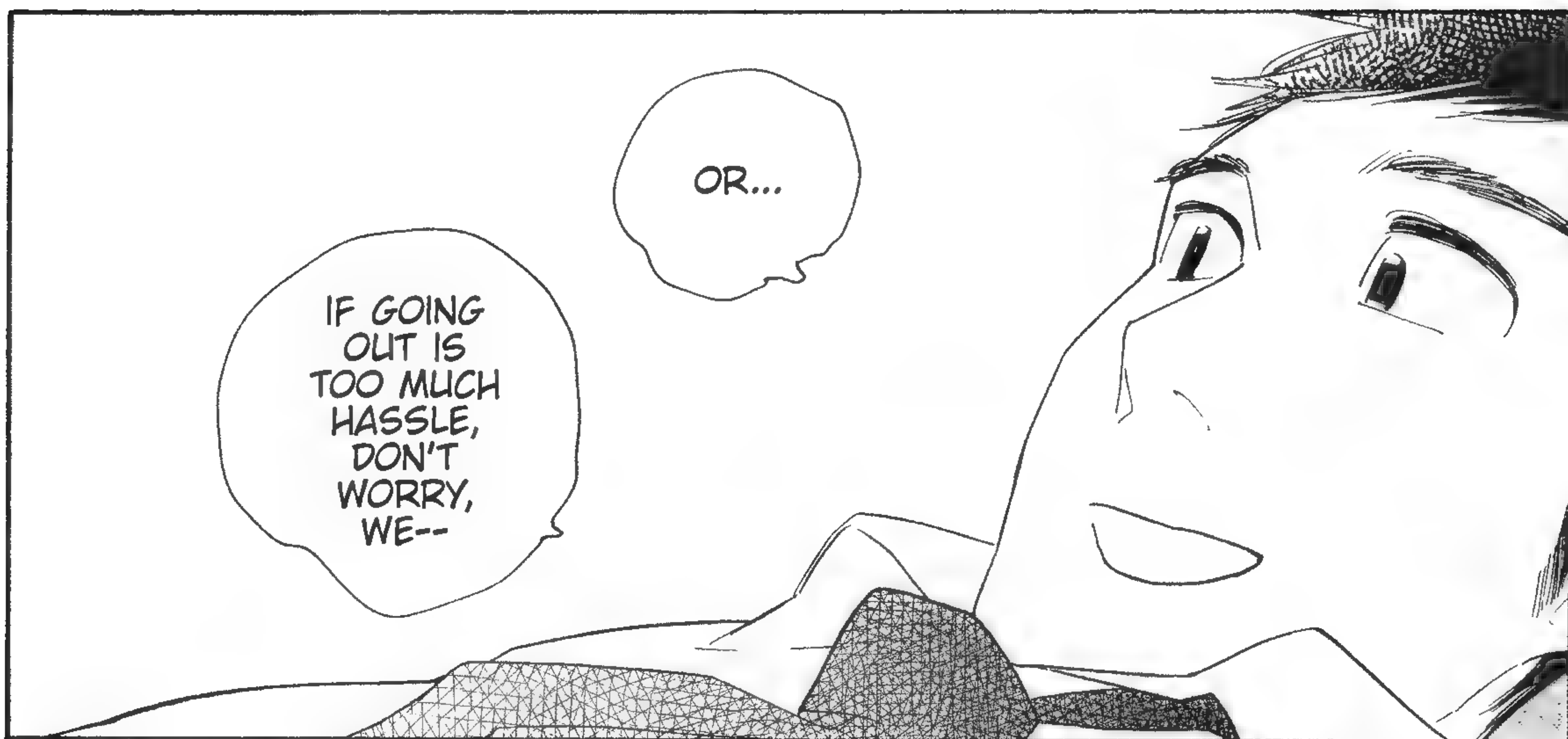




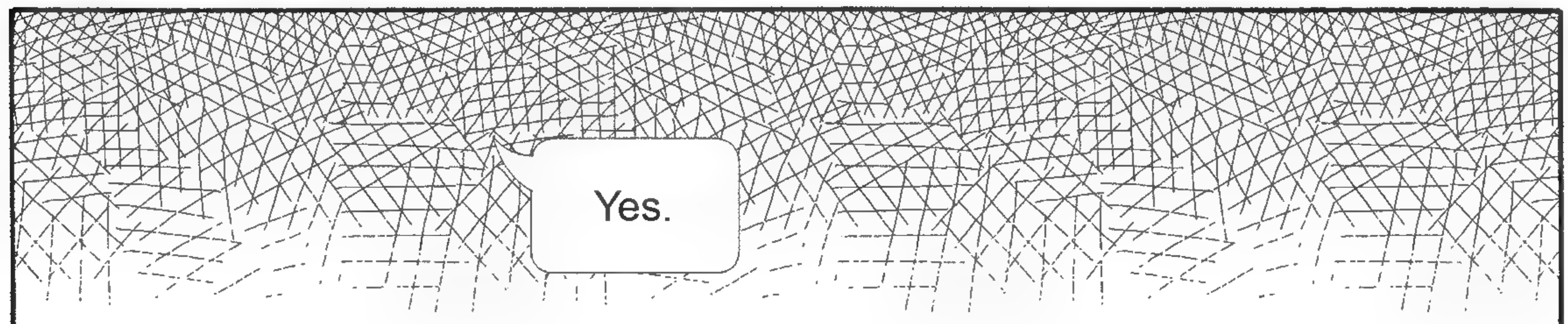
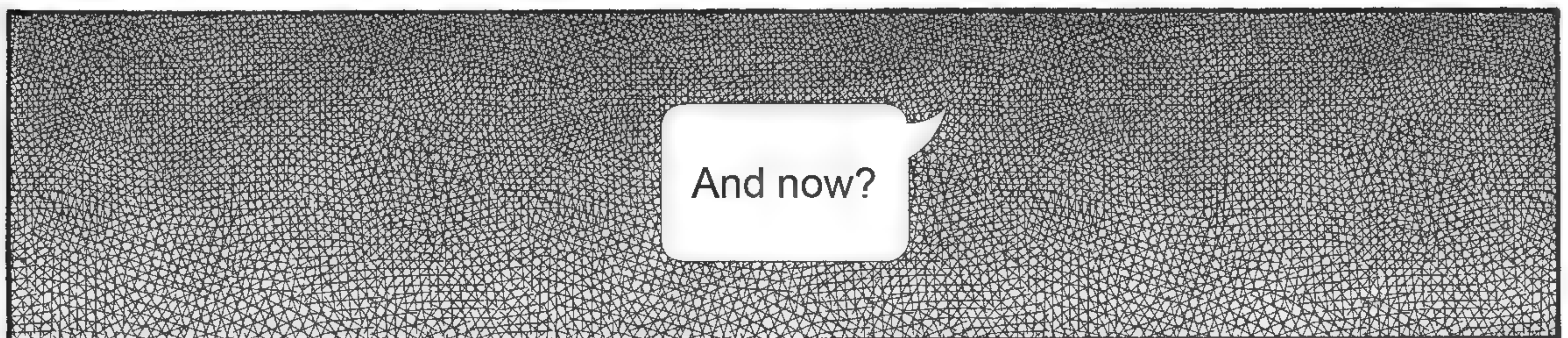
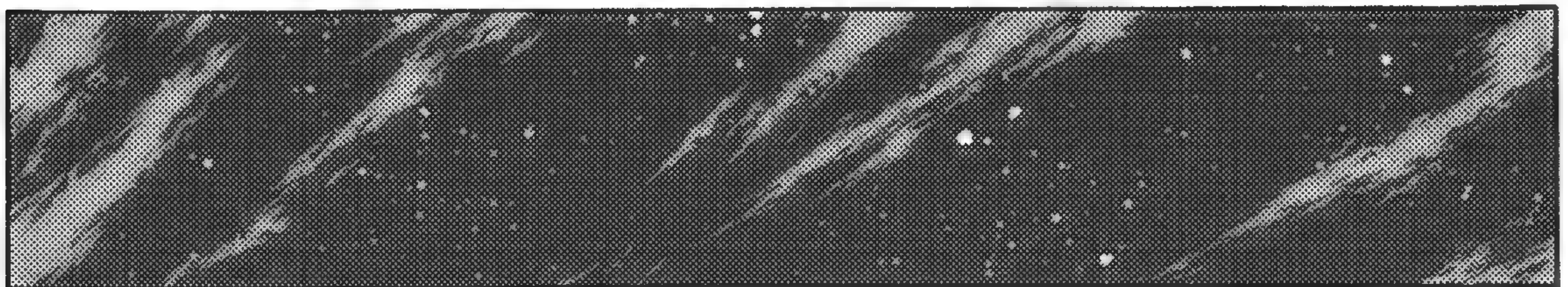








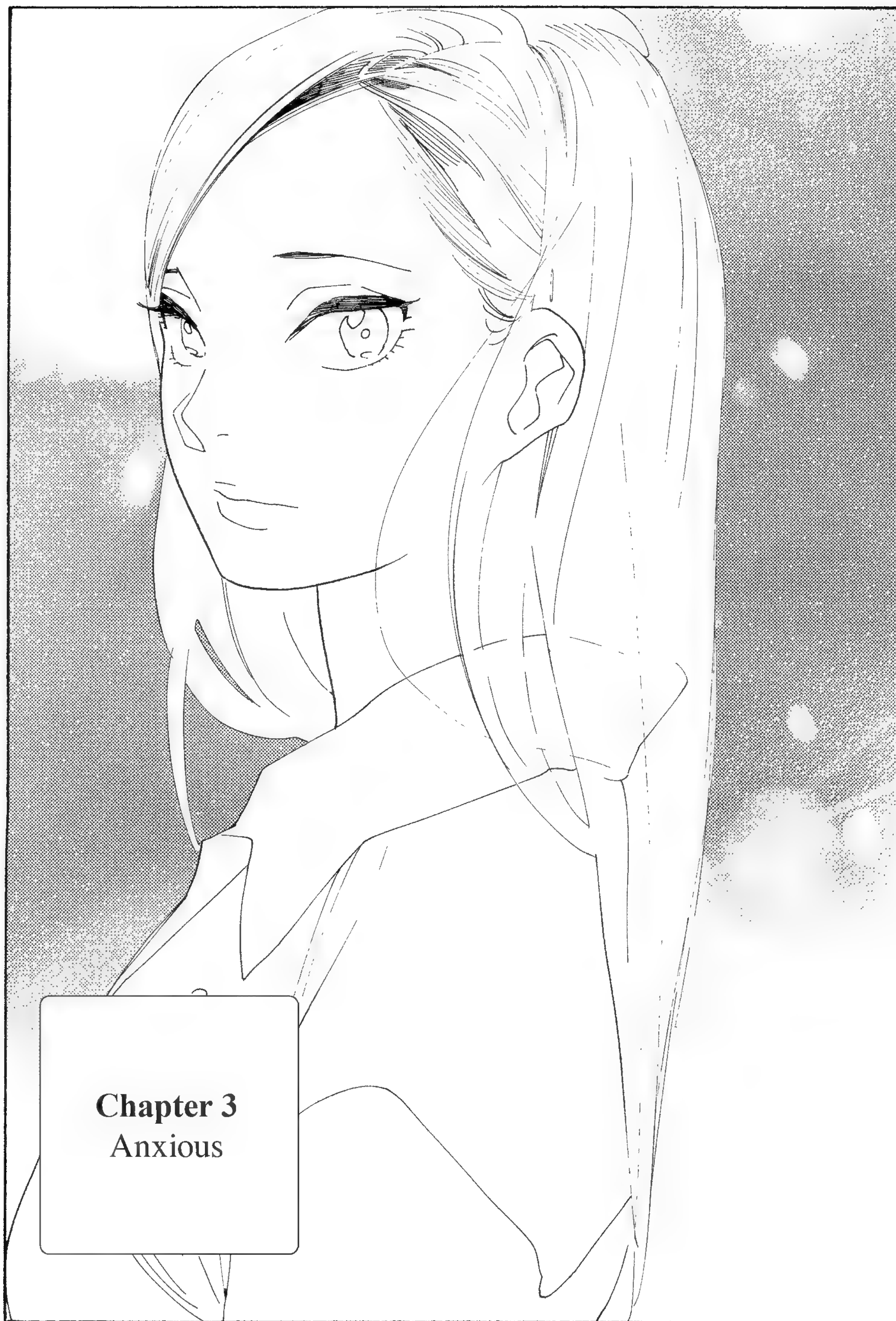






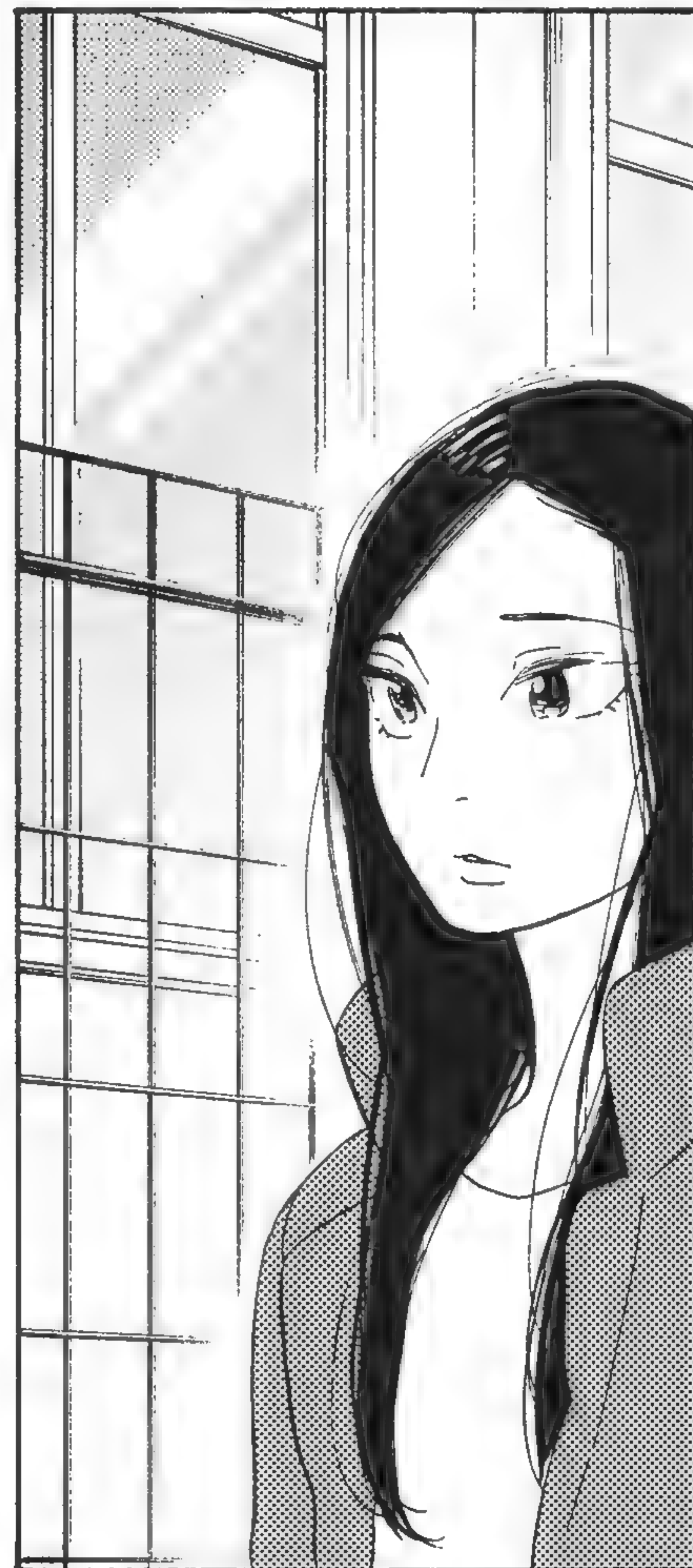
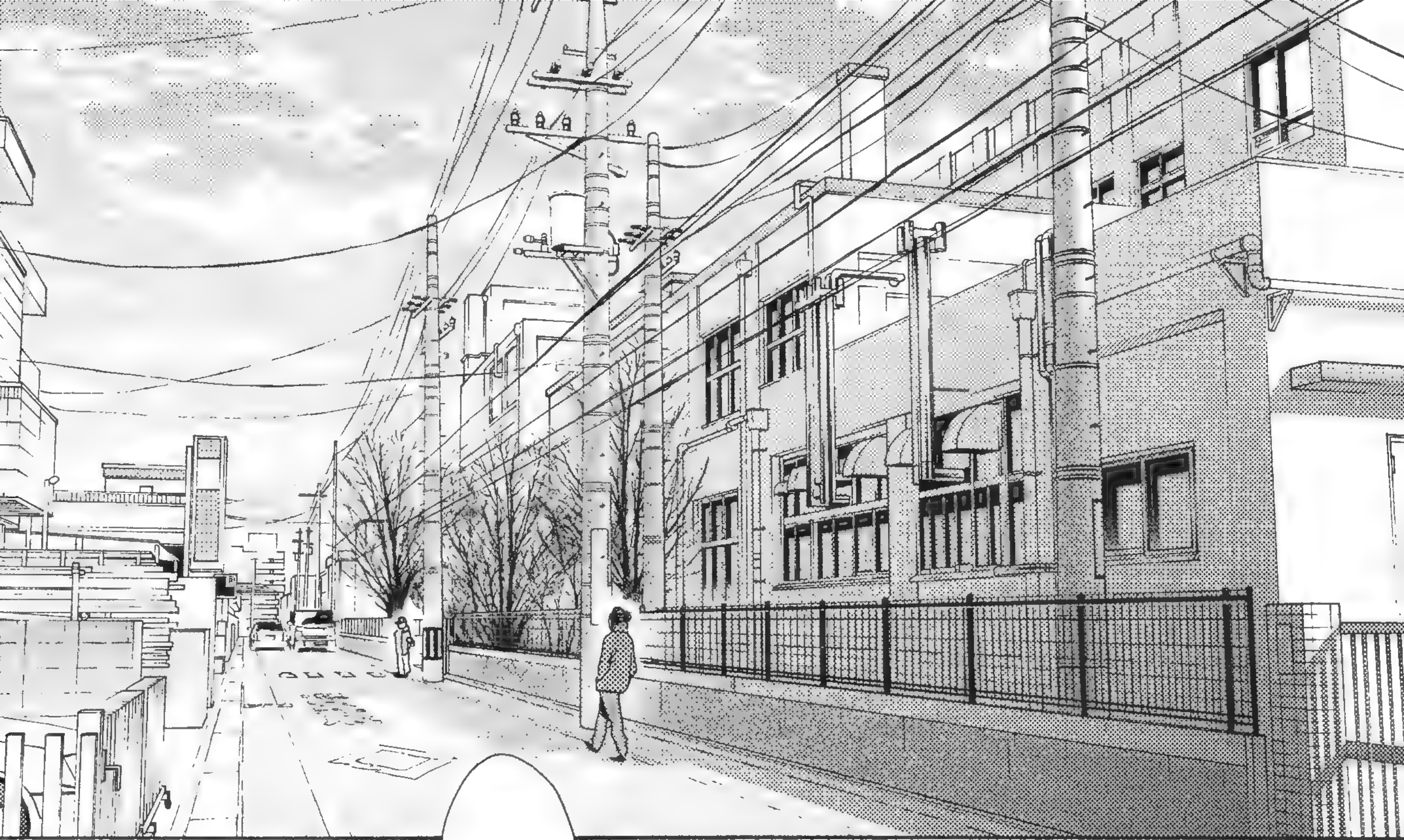




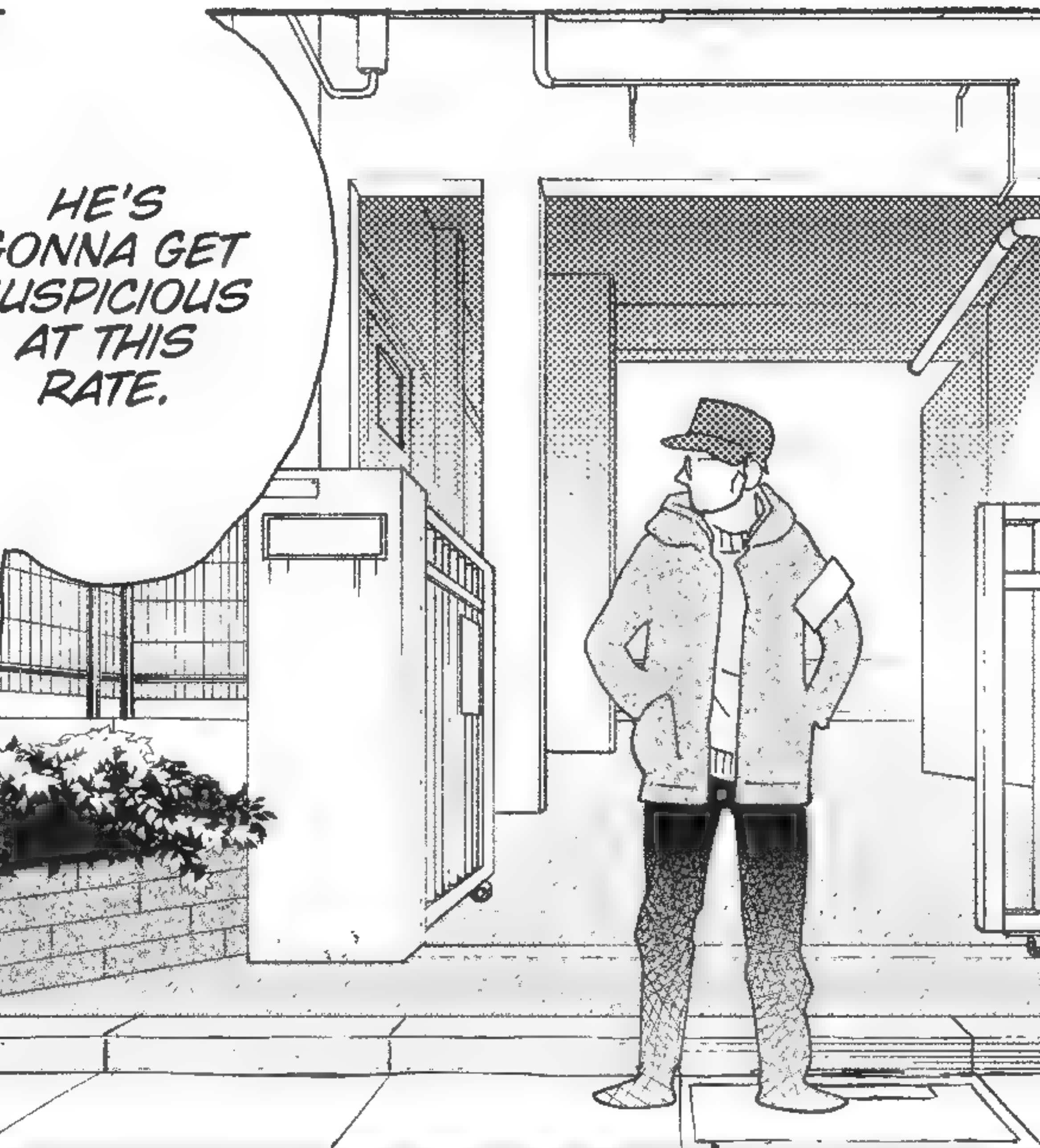
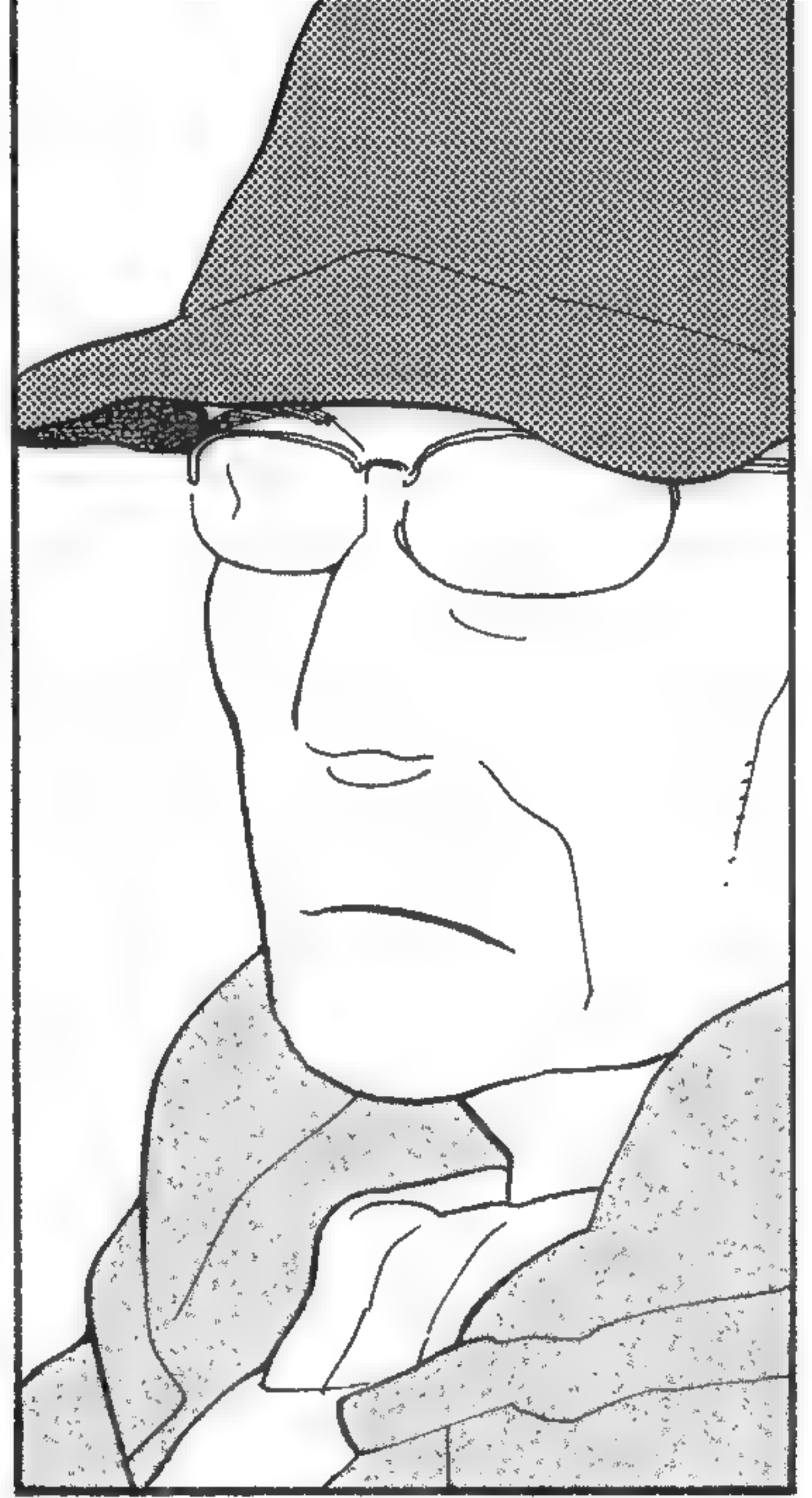


**Chapter 3**  
Anxious









I FEEL  
LIKE HE'S  
STILL  
LOOKING  
AT ME.

I JUST  
WALKED  
BY THE  
SCHOOL  
AGAIN.

AND WITH  
ELEMENTARY,  
THERE'S NO  
PICK-UPS  
ANYHOW.

MAYBE  
I DON'T  
LOOK LIKE  
ANYONE'S  
PARENT.

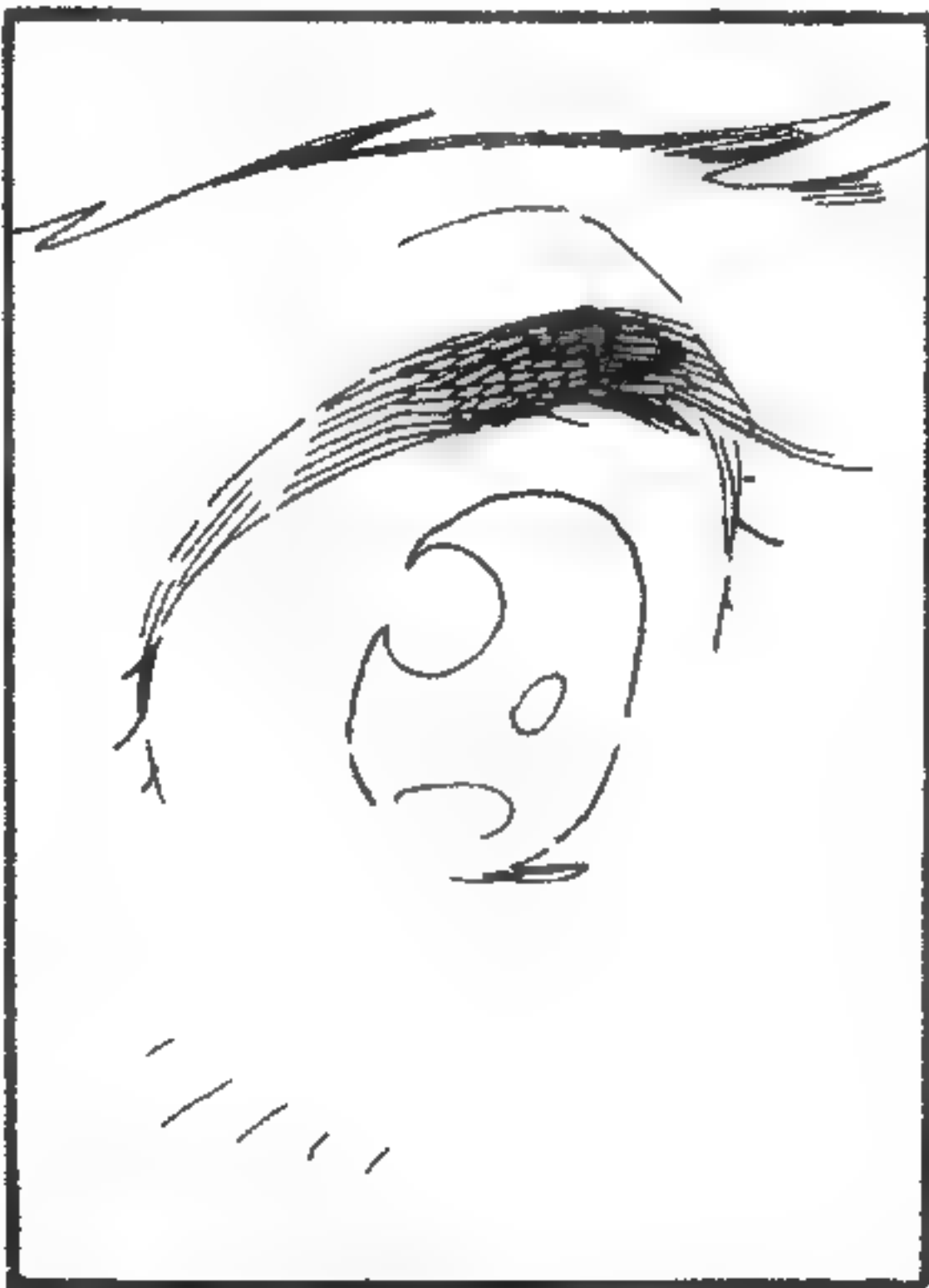
HE'S  
GONNA GET  
SUSPICIOUS  
AT THIS  
RATE.



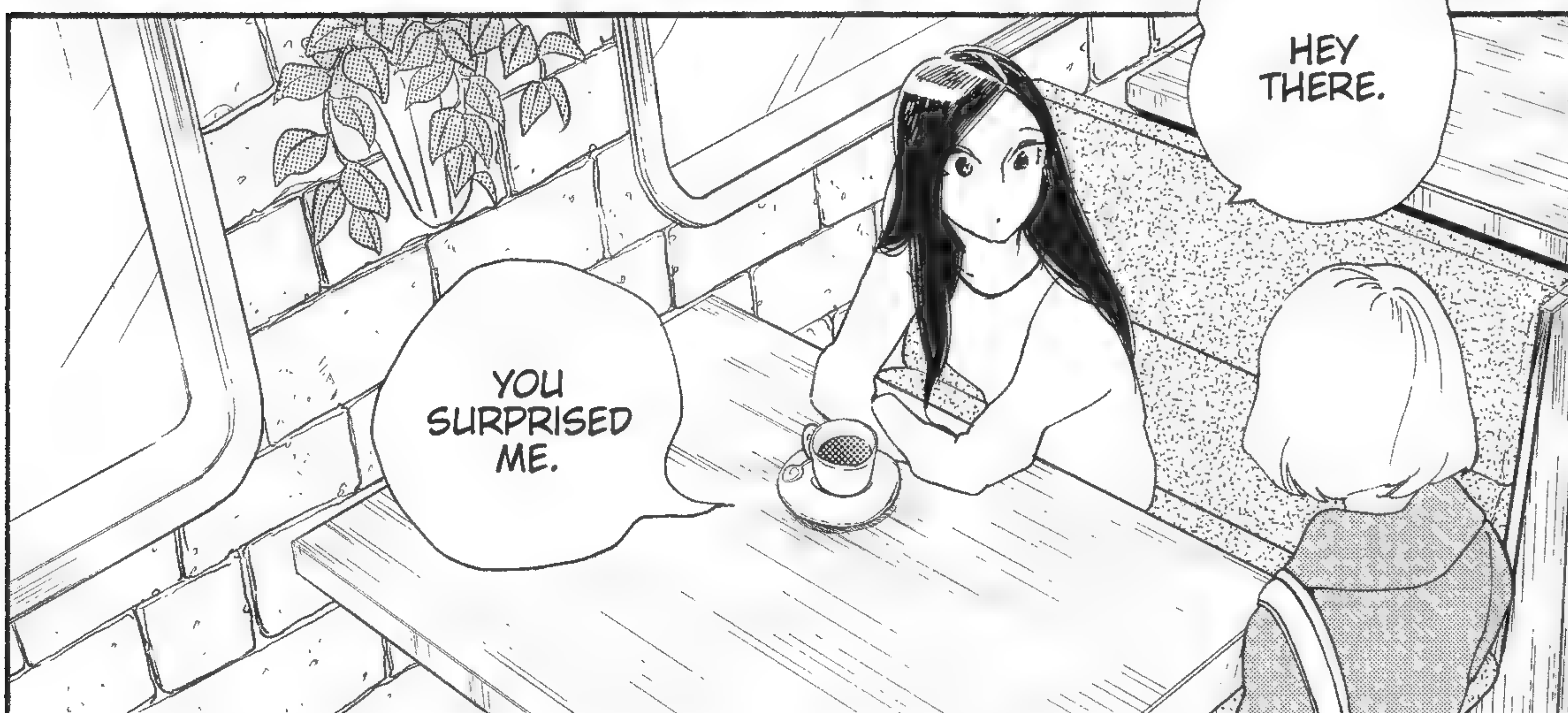
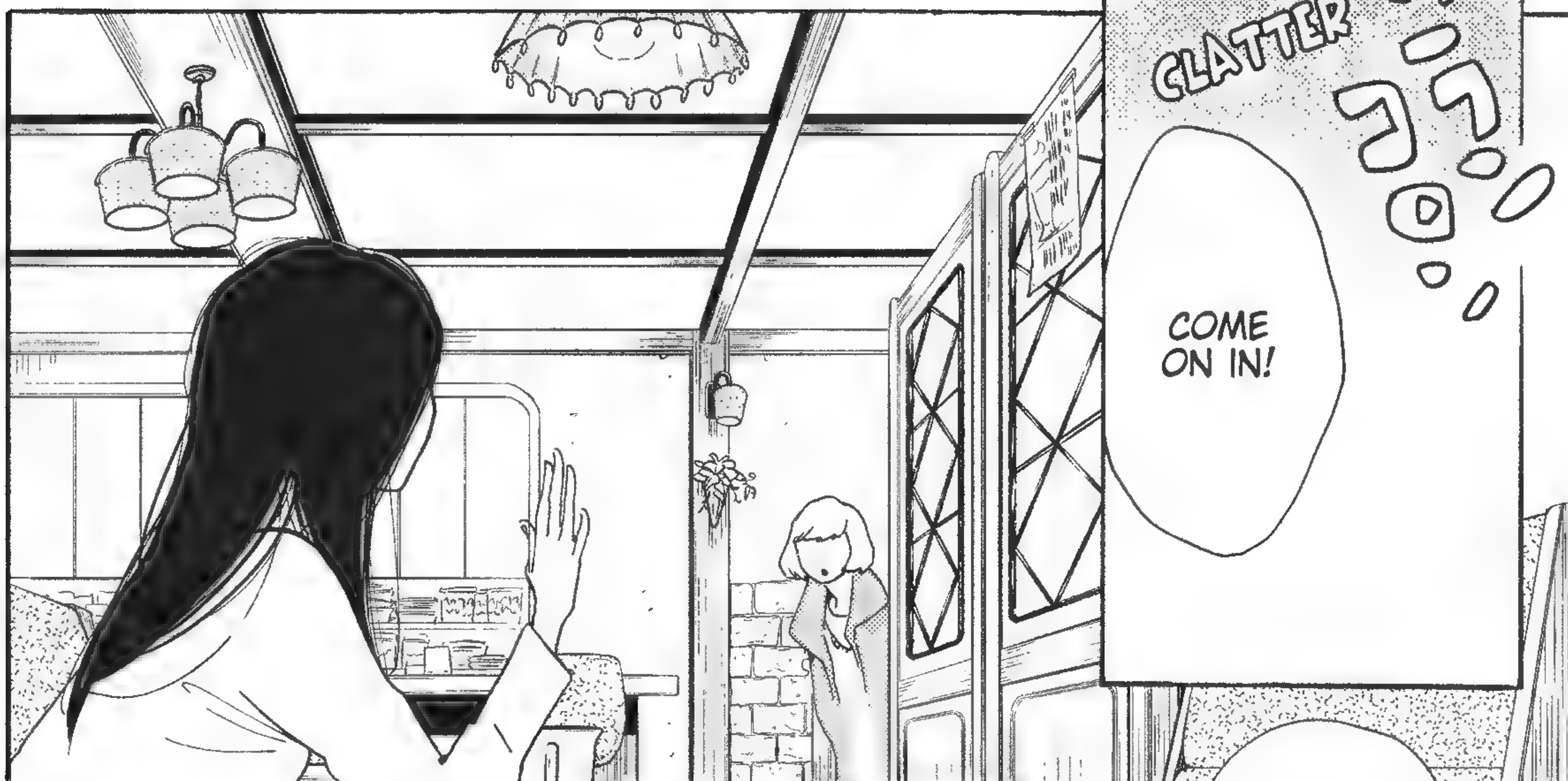


I went for a walk and came by your school, but I stuck out like a sore thumb. I'm back at the station having tea now.

Aa



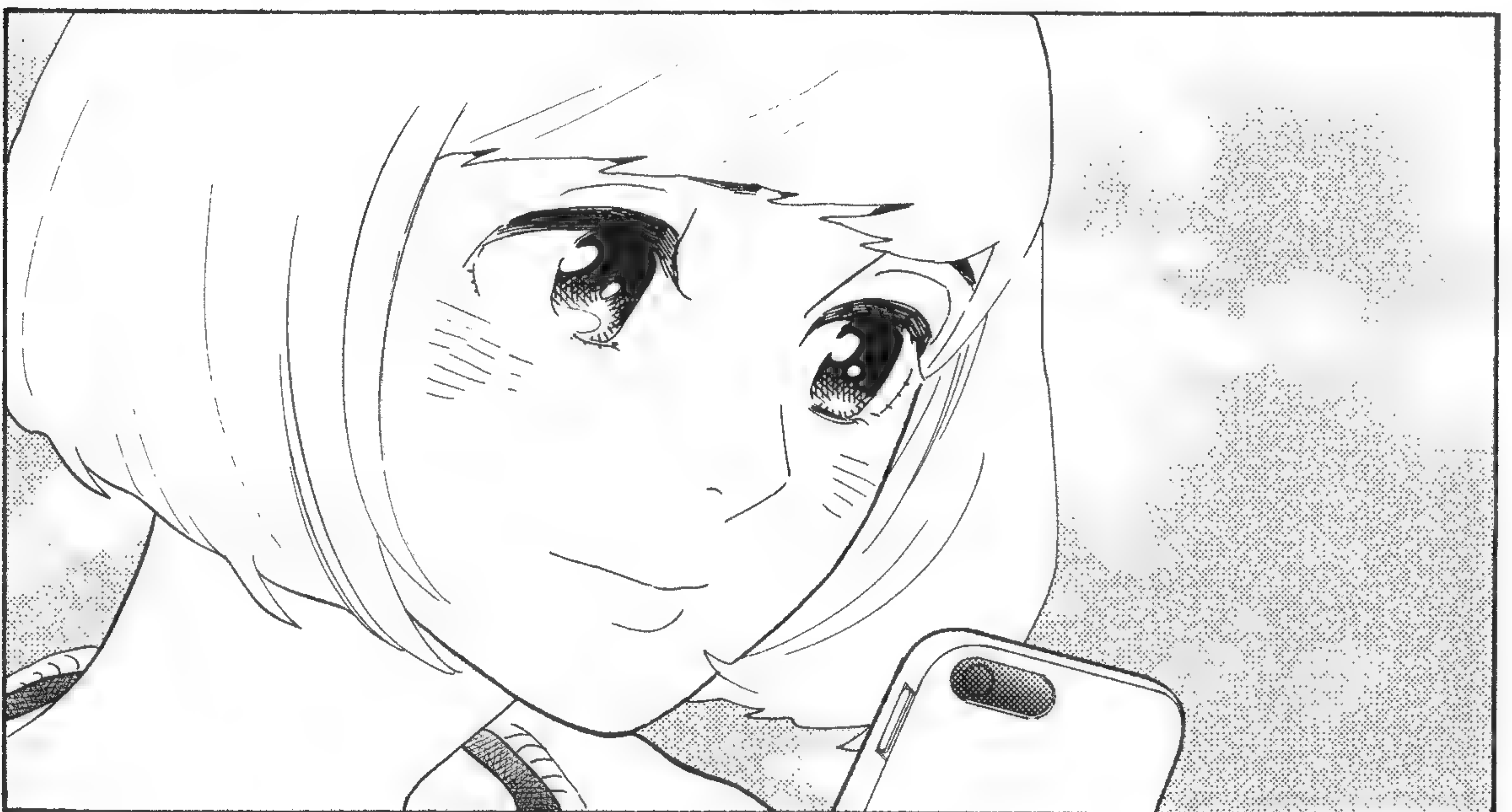
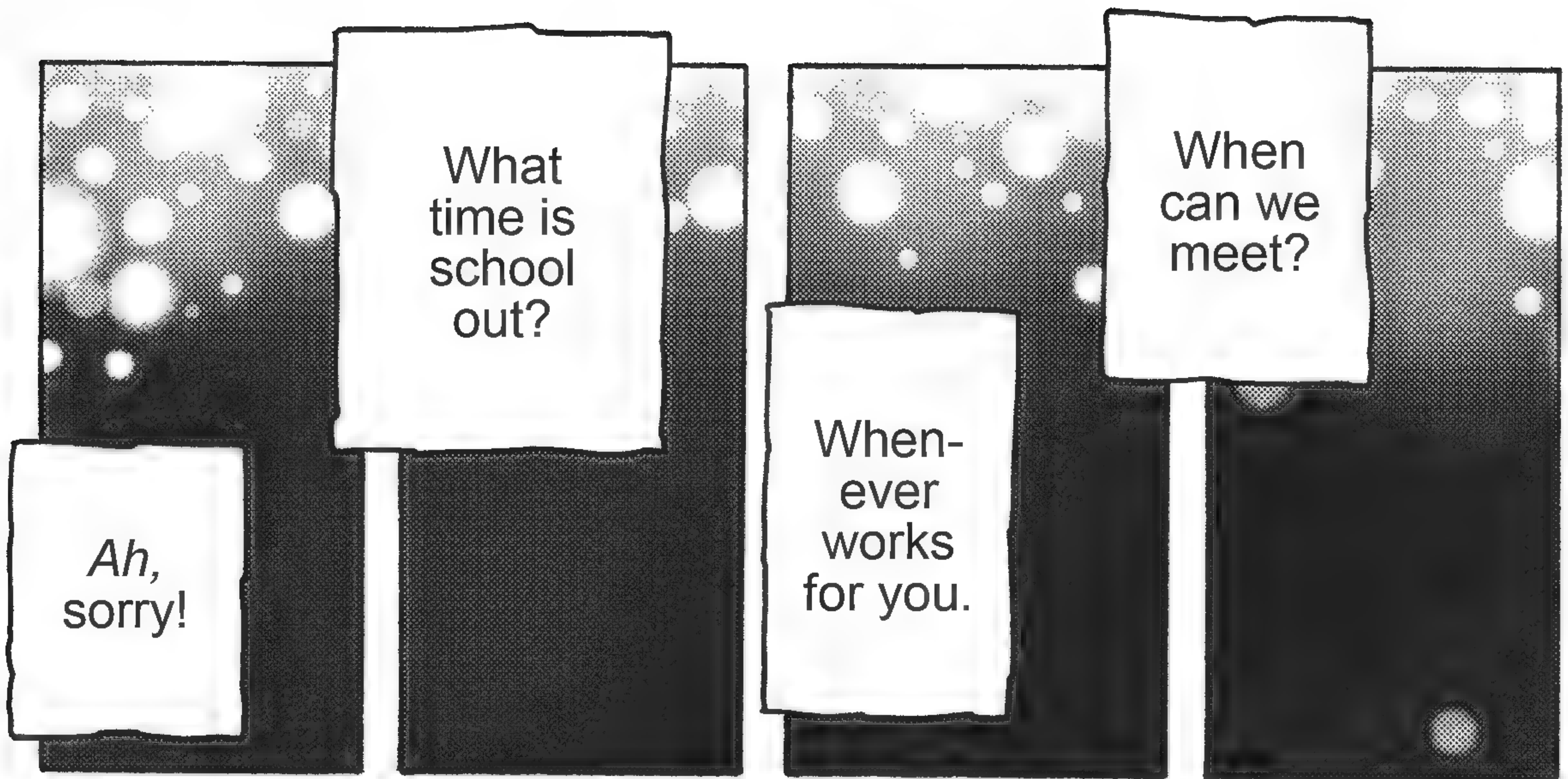




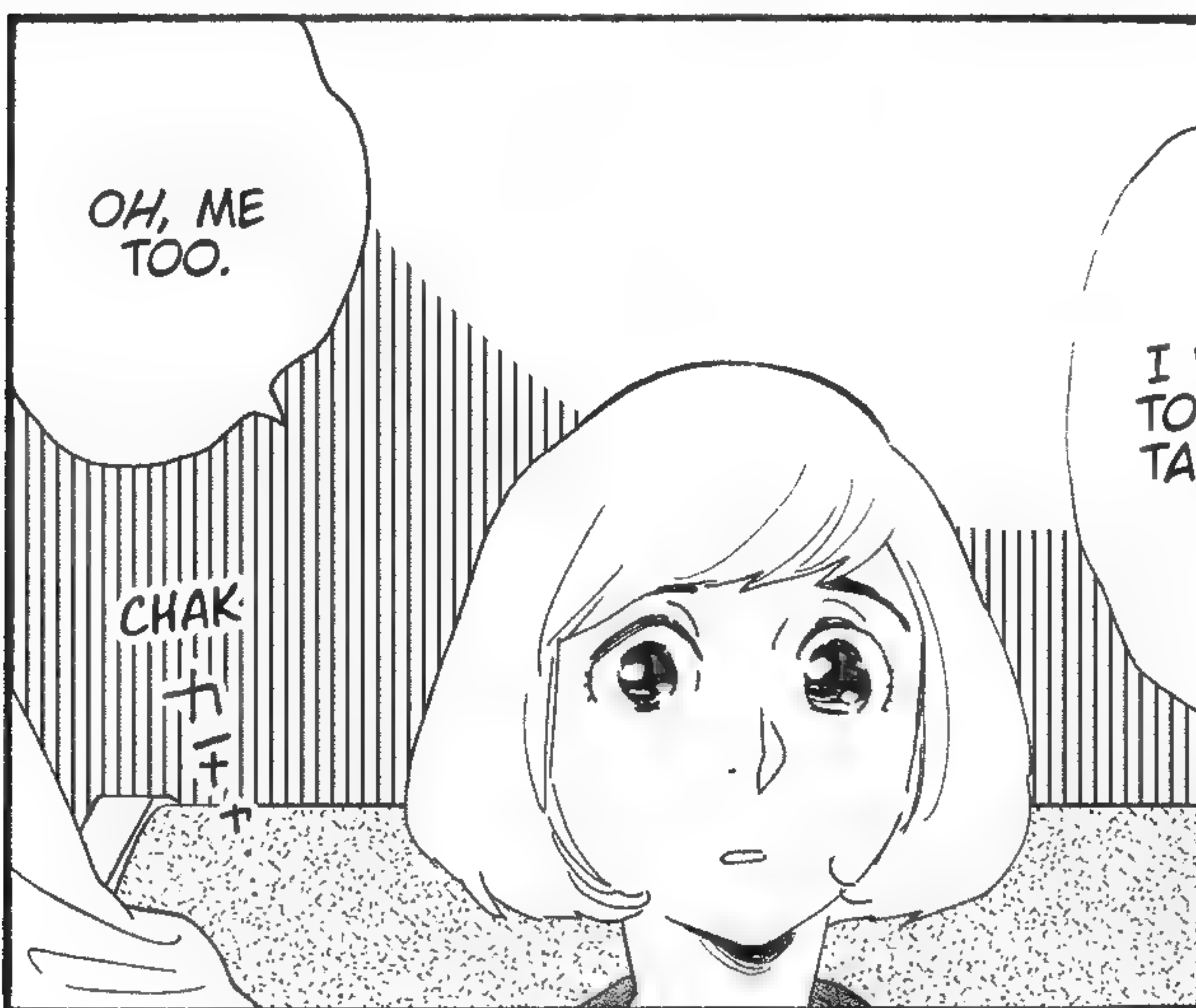
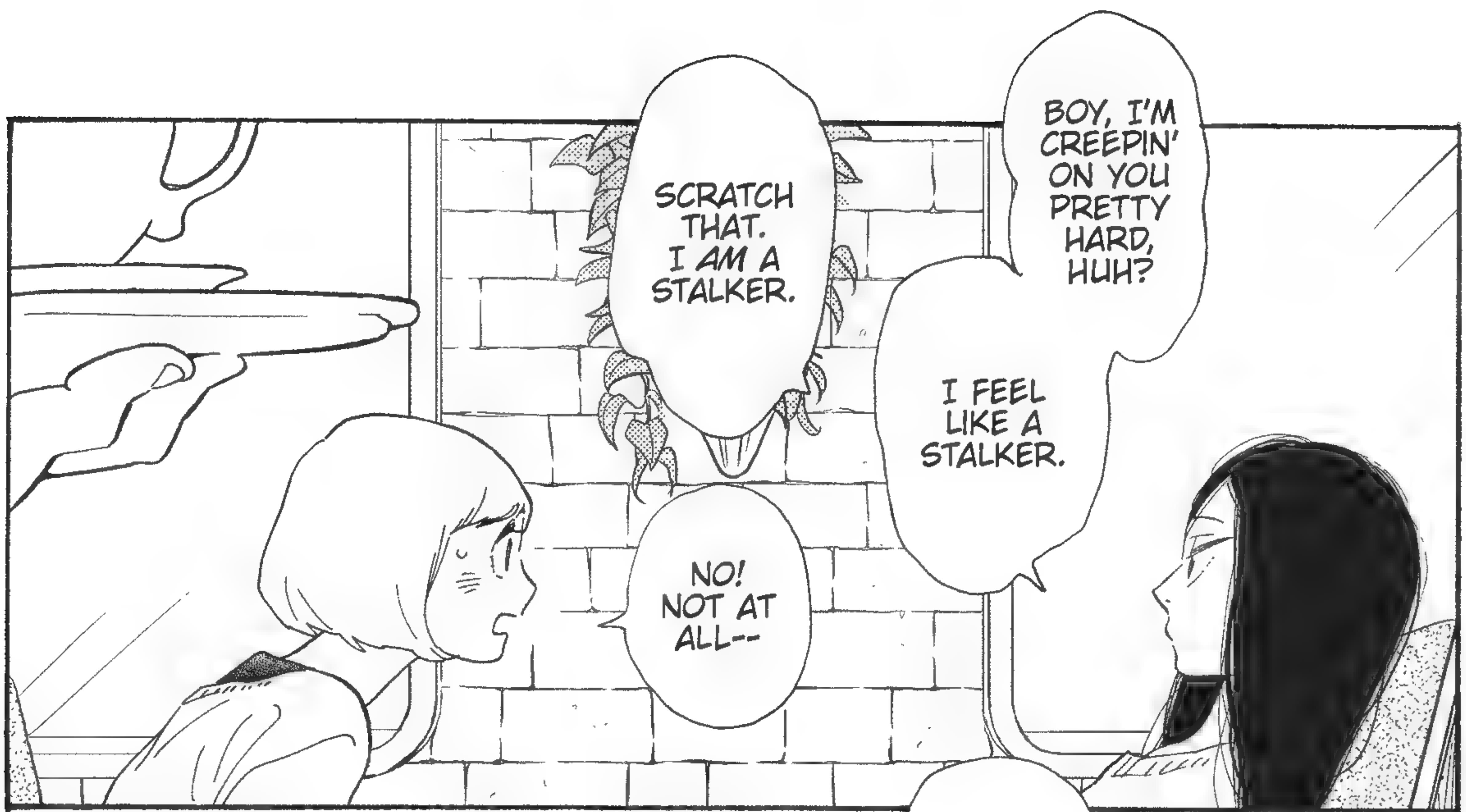
















A LOT OF  
WOMEN  
GROW UP  
AND ONLY  
REALIZE  
THEY LIKE  
OTHER  
WOMEN  
LATER IN  
LIFE.



I DIDN'T  
WANT  
YOU TO  
THINK MY  
PROBLEM  
WAS THE  
BISEXUAL  
THING.



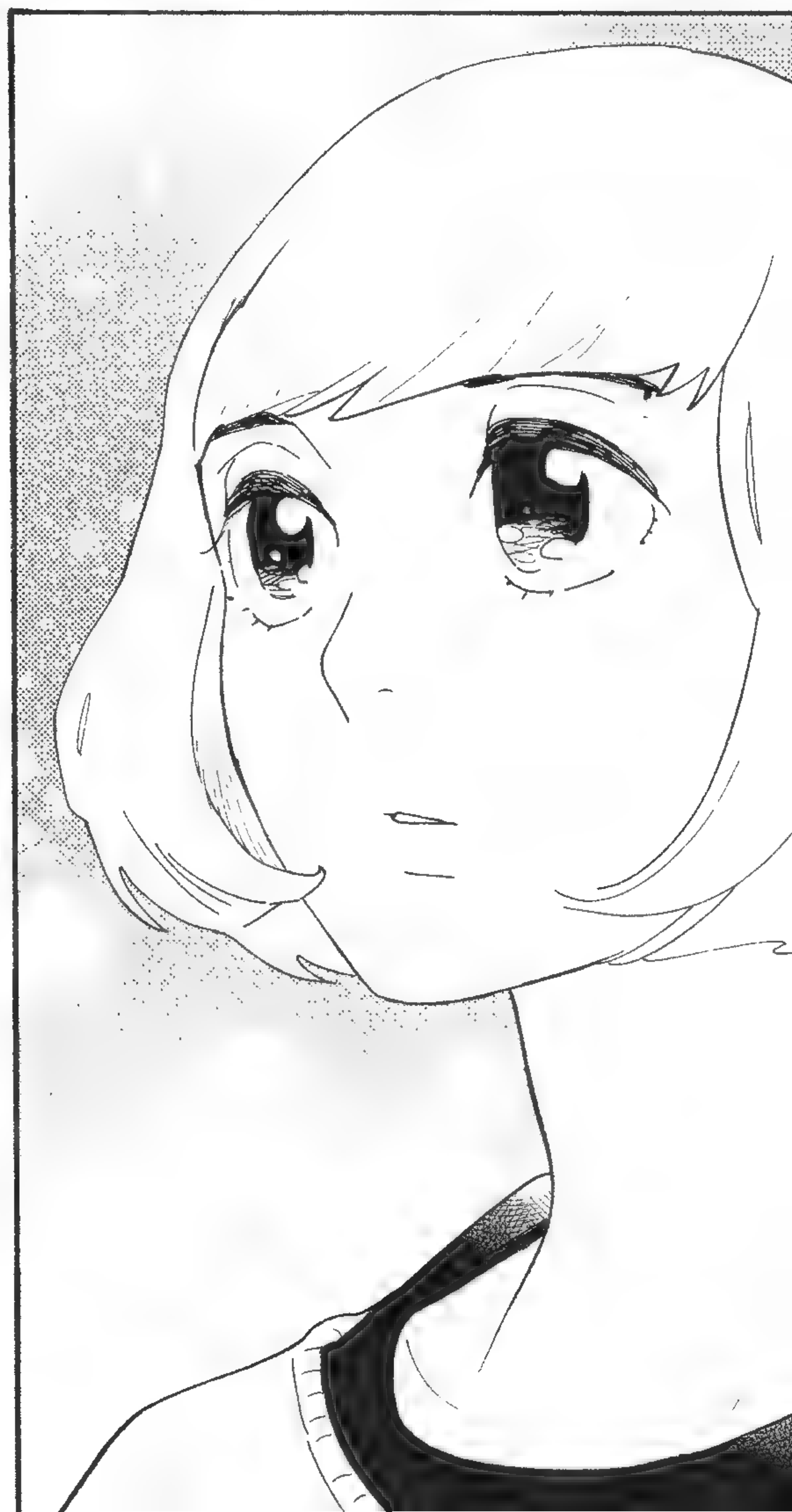
FIRST  
OFF, YOU'RE  
ALREADY  
MARRIED. AND  
SECONDLY, THE  
BI GIRLS IN  
MY PAST...

BUT...

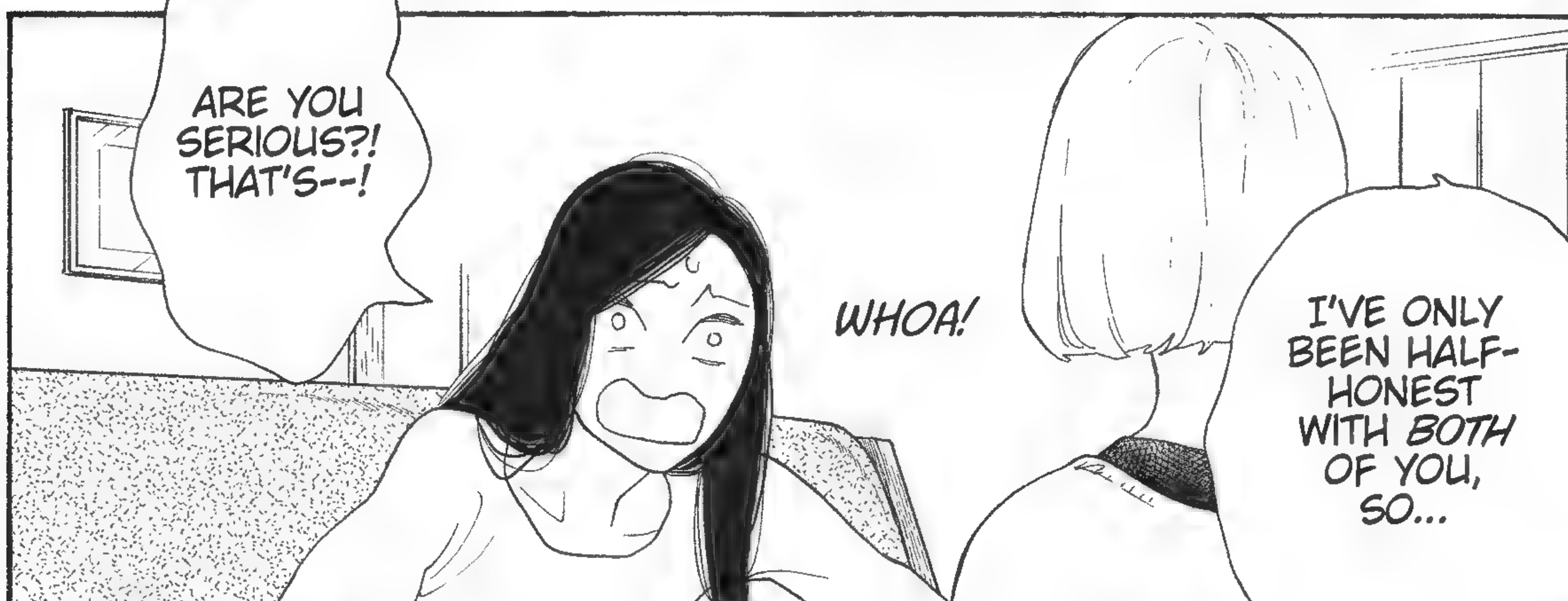


THEY'VE  
ALWAYS  
DUMPED ME  
FOR SOME  
GUY IN  
THE END.

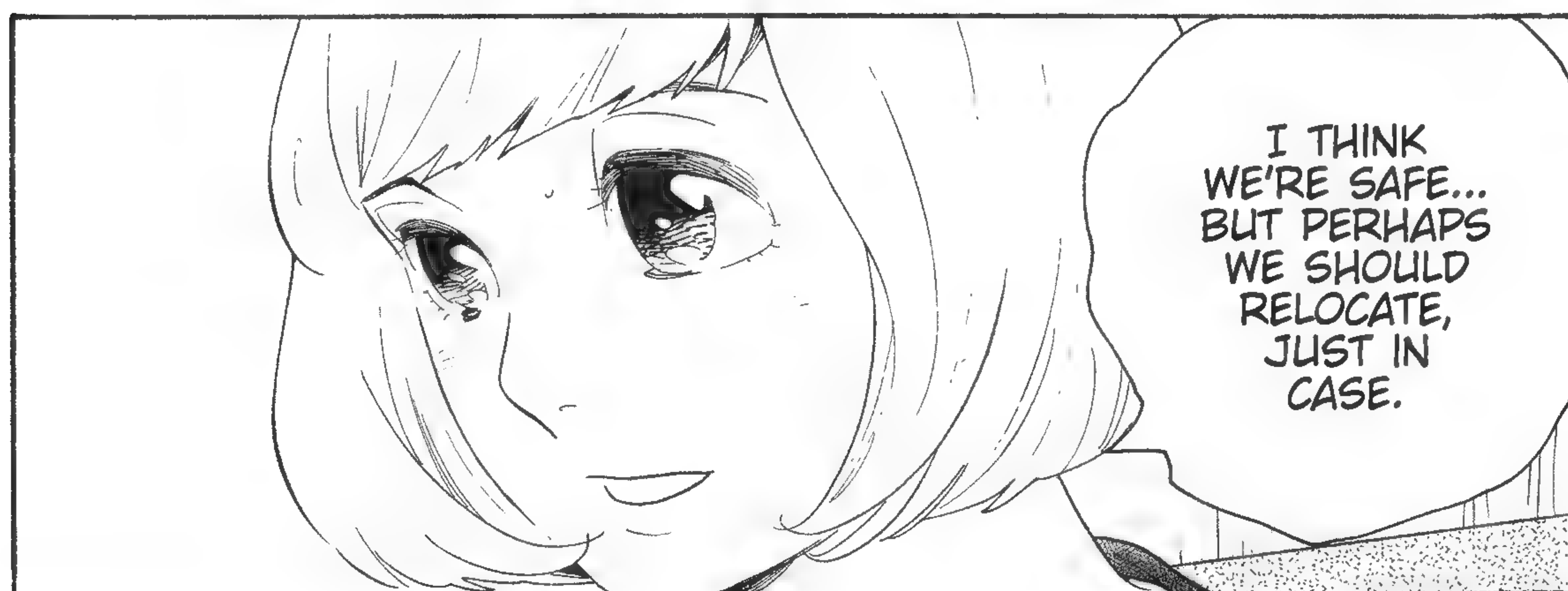




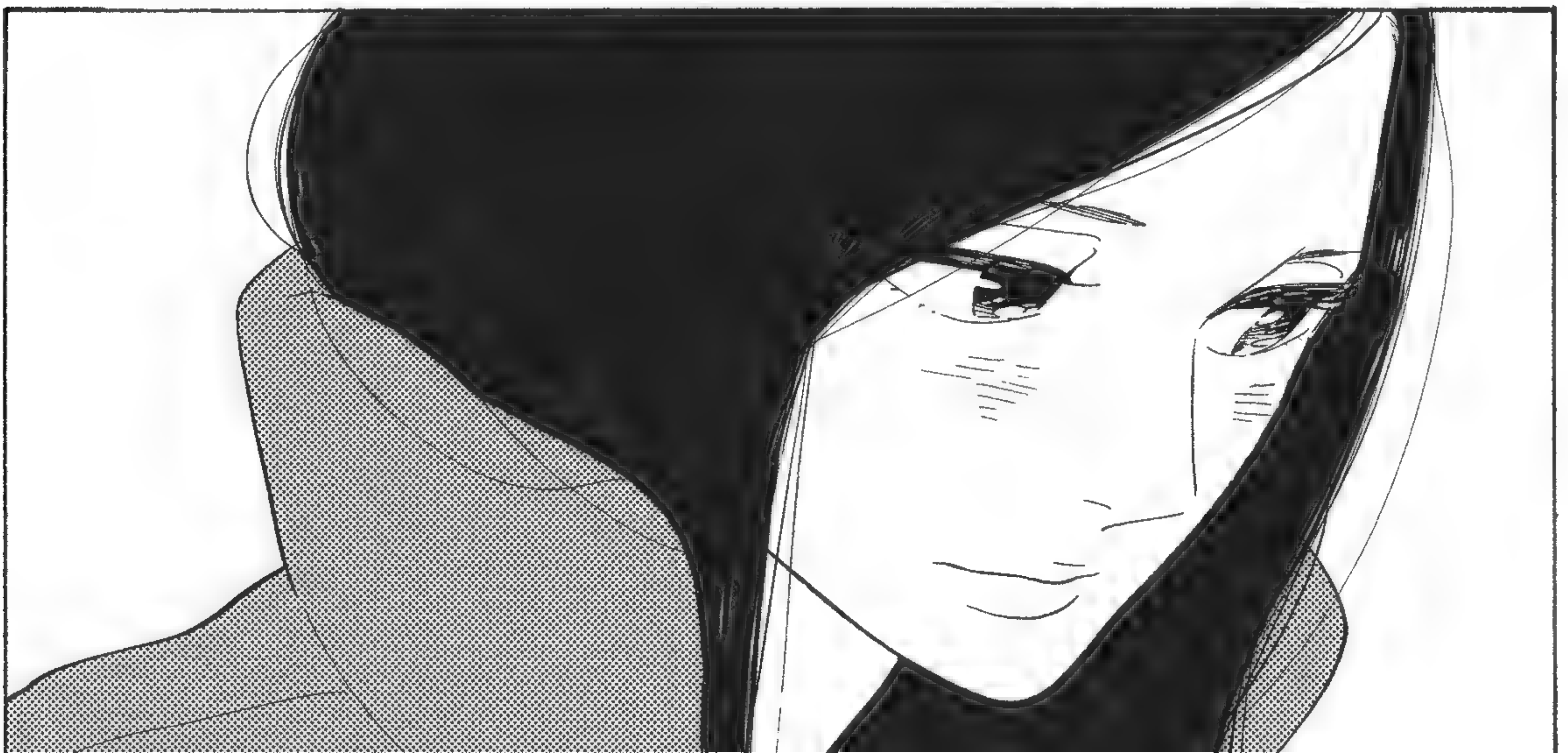
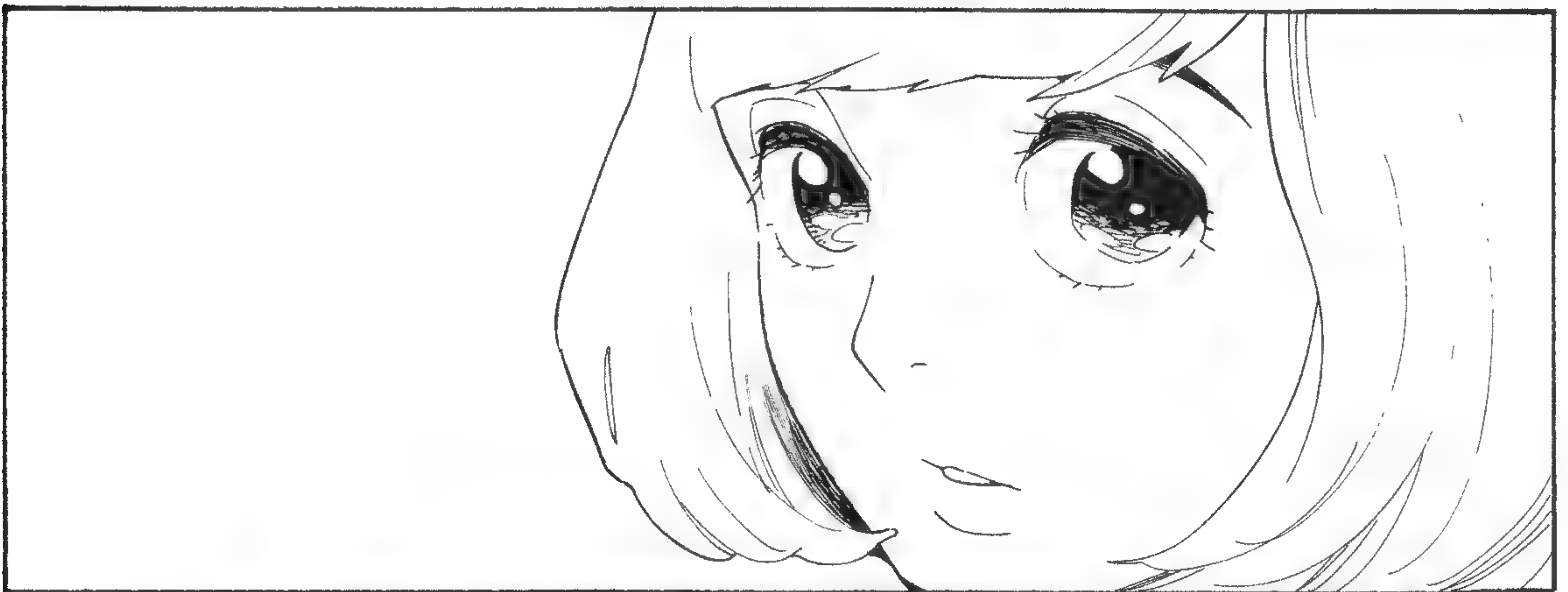




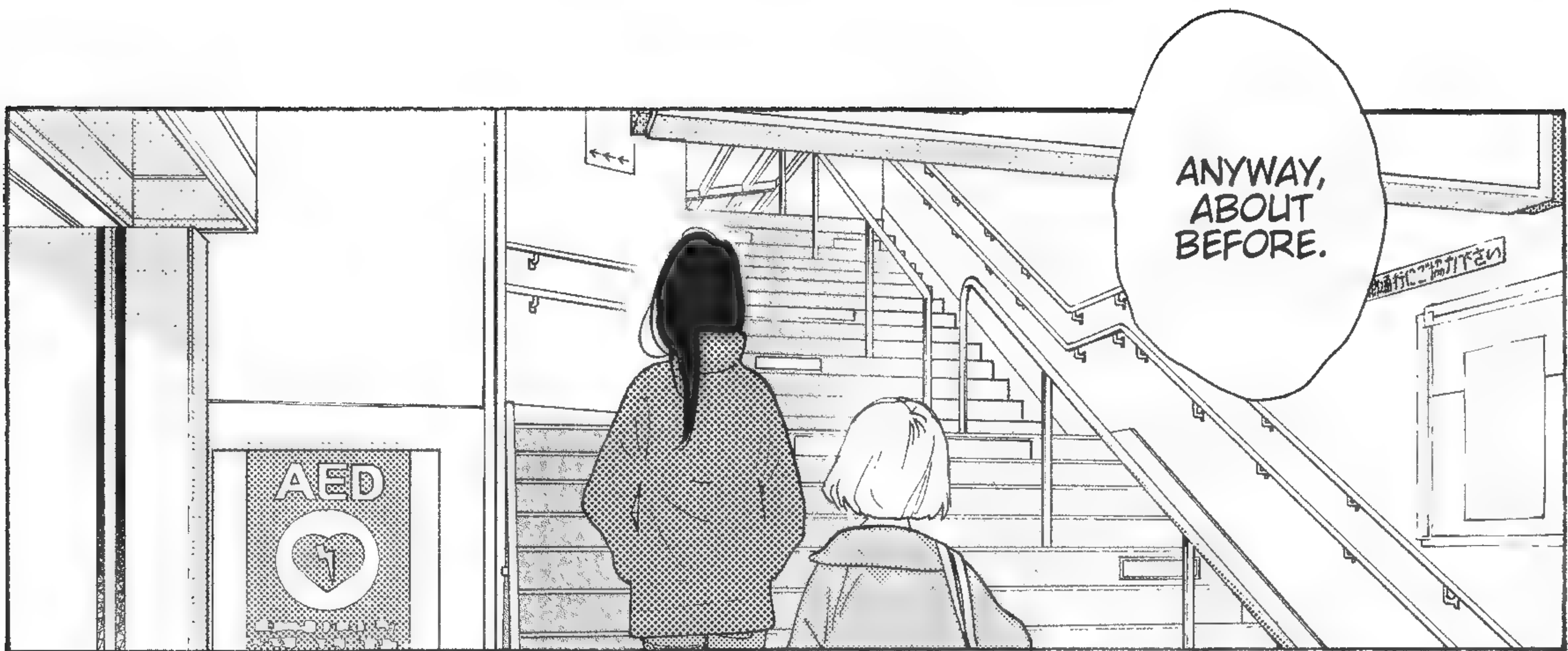




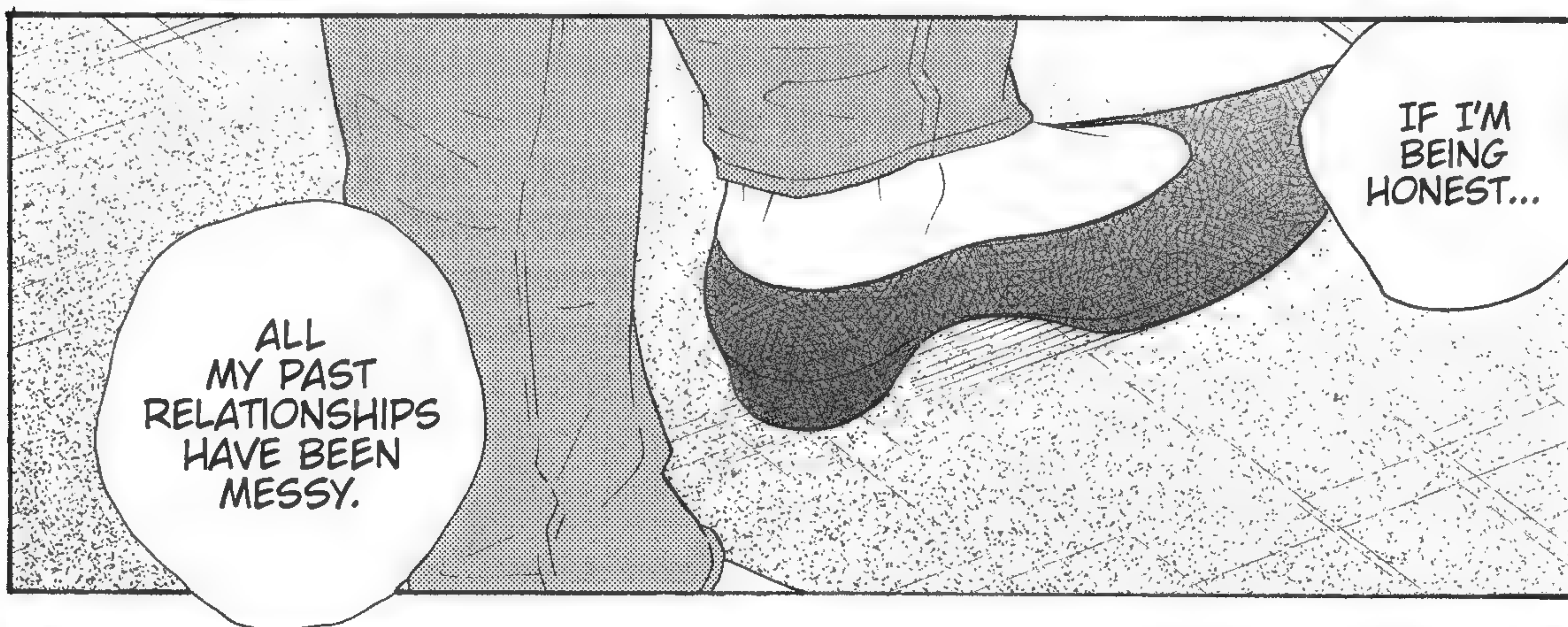
















AND I'LL BE  
THIRTY-SIX  
NEXT MONTH.  
I'M SICK OF  
THIS ACT  
ALREADY.

I'M  
THIRTY-  
FIVE.



IT JUST...  
MADE ME  
FEEL A  
LITTLE  
GIDDY THAT  
WE'RE BOTH  
THIRTY-  
FIVE.

I'M  
SORRY.



THIS IS  
PROBABLY  
THE WORST  
TIME  
TO SAY  
THIS...

UM!

BUT I'M  
THIRTY-  
FIVE,  
TOO!

THIRTY-  
SIX  
THIS  
YEAR!

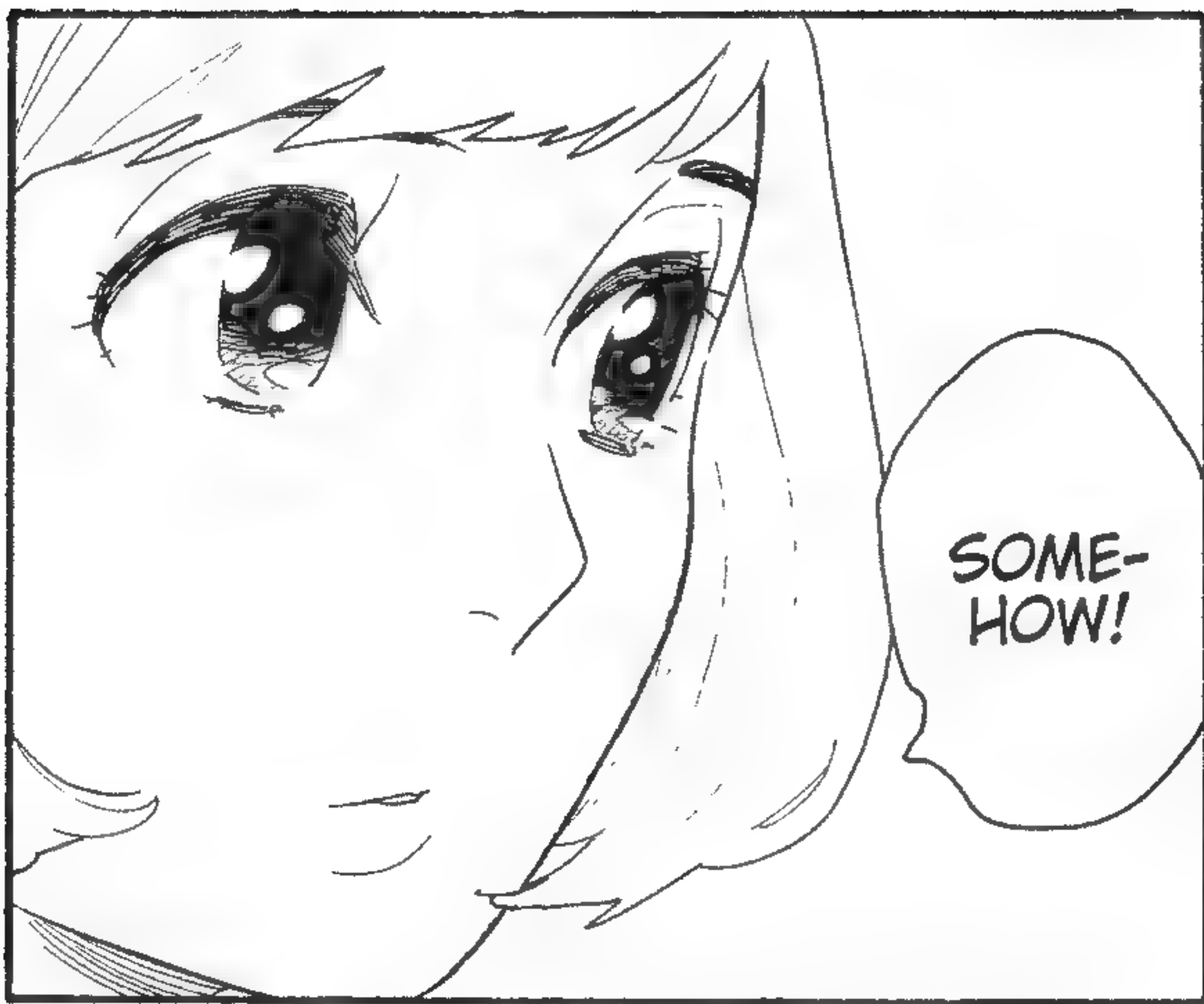
YOU'RE  
RIGHT,  
THAT  
WAS  
TERRIBLE  
TIMING.



I DON'T  
GET ALONG  
WITH MANY  
PEOPLE MY  
AGE.

HARDLY  
ANYONE,  
REALLY.





SOME-  
HOW!



AND YET,  
YOU'RE A  
TEACHER.



YOU'VE  
GOT A  
WAY WITH  
WORDS,  
MS.  
SMOOTH-  
TALKER.

HARDLY!

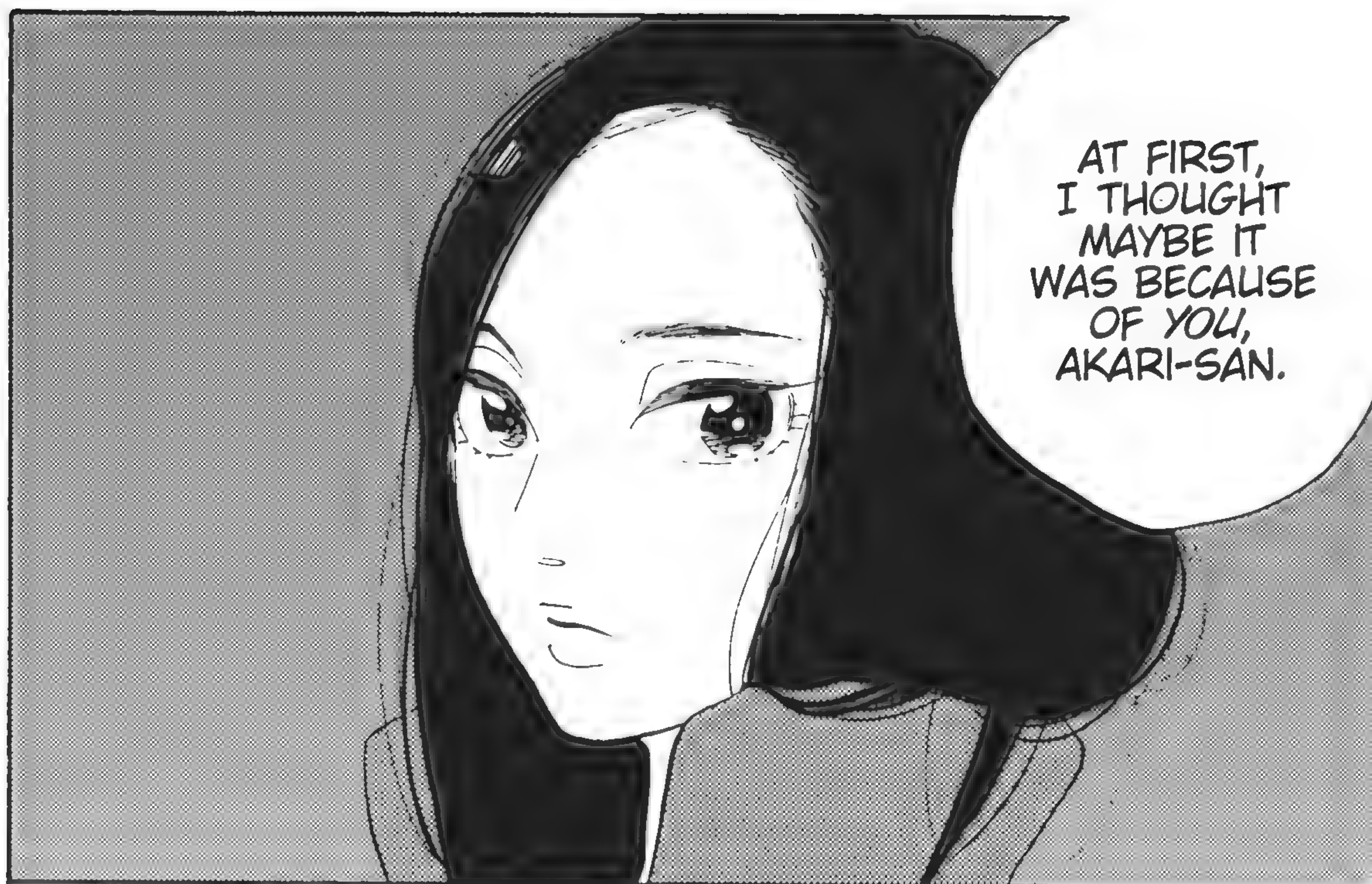
DAMN  
IT.



REALLY, THAT  
NIGHT WITH  
YOU, IT WAS  
THE FIRST  
TIME I'D DONE  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT.

BUT I DON'T  
MEAN TO USE  
THAT AS AN  
EXCUSE.







IN  
THEORY, I  
COULD KEEP  
MAKING  
EXCUSES  
TO MY  
HUSBAND  
FOR A  
WHILE.

BUT...TO  
BE HONEST,  
I HAVE NO  
CLUE WHAT  
TO DO WITH  
ALL THESE  
FEELINGS.

I JUST  
WANTED TO...  
VOMIT THEM  
OUT AT SOME-  
ONE AND SEE  
IF IT HELPED.

AHHH.

AYANO-  
CHAN.

FINALLY,  
YOU GIVE  
ME THE  
SAME  
LINE  
AS THE  
REST.



IS THERE A  
TEMPLATE  
SOMEWHERE?  
I'M SO  
TIRED OF  
HEARING IT.

YOU  
HUNGRY?

I THOUGHT  
MAYBE, IT  
WASN'T  
JUST  
BECAUSE  
YOU'RE A  
WOMAN.

MAYBE  
IT WAS  
BECAUSE  
YOU'RE  
YOU. I'VE  
NEVER  
FELT  
LIKE THIS  
BEFORE.

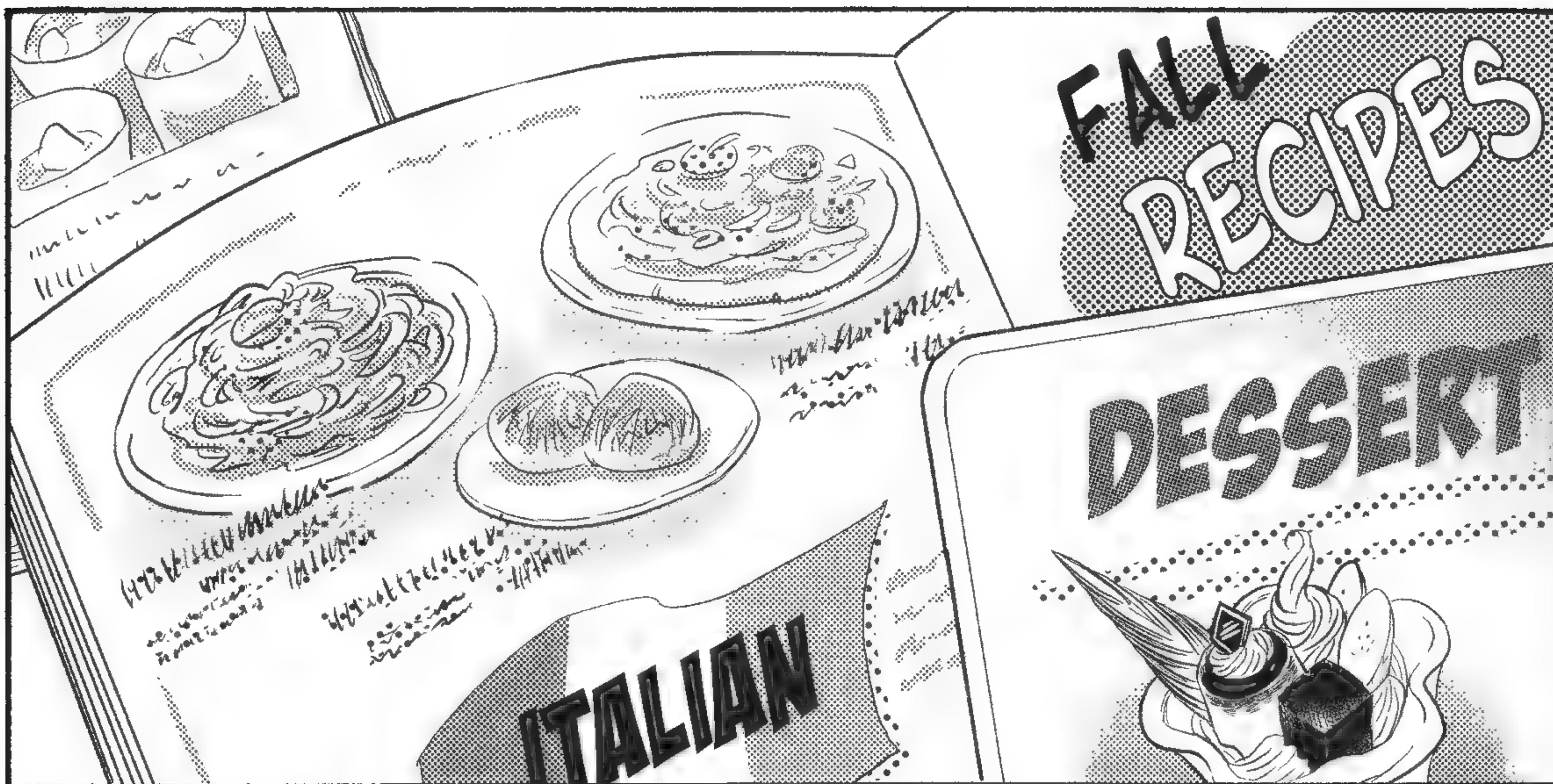
ALL I SEE  
HERE IS  
THE USUAL  
BOG I GET  
DRAGGED  
DOWN  
INTO.

YET...I WANT  
TO SEE WHAT  
HAPPENS.  
WITH YOU  
AND ME.

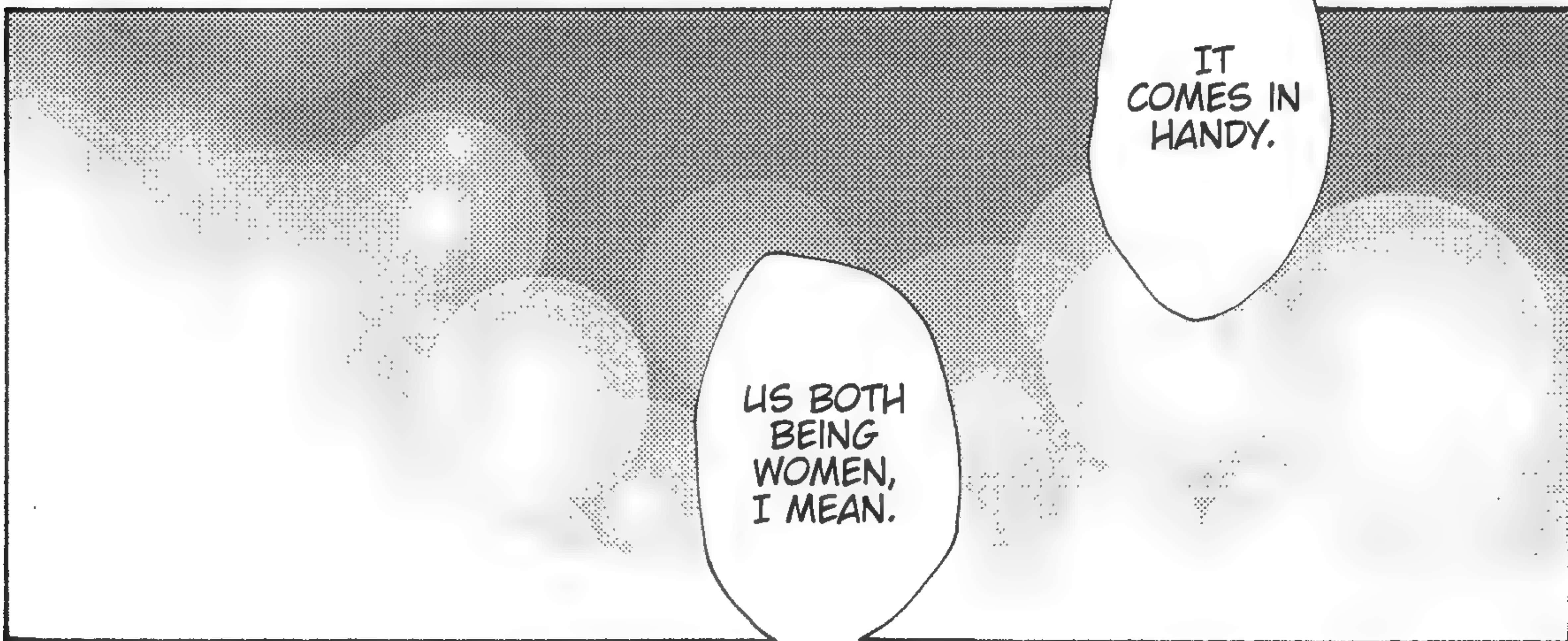
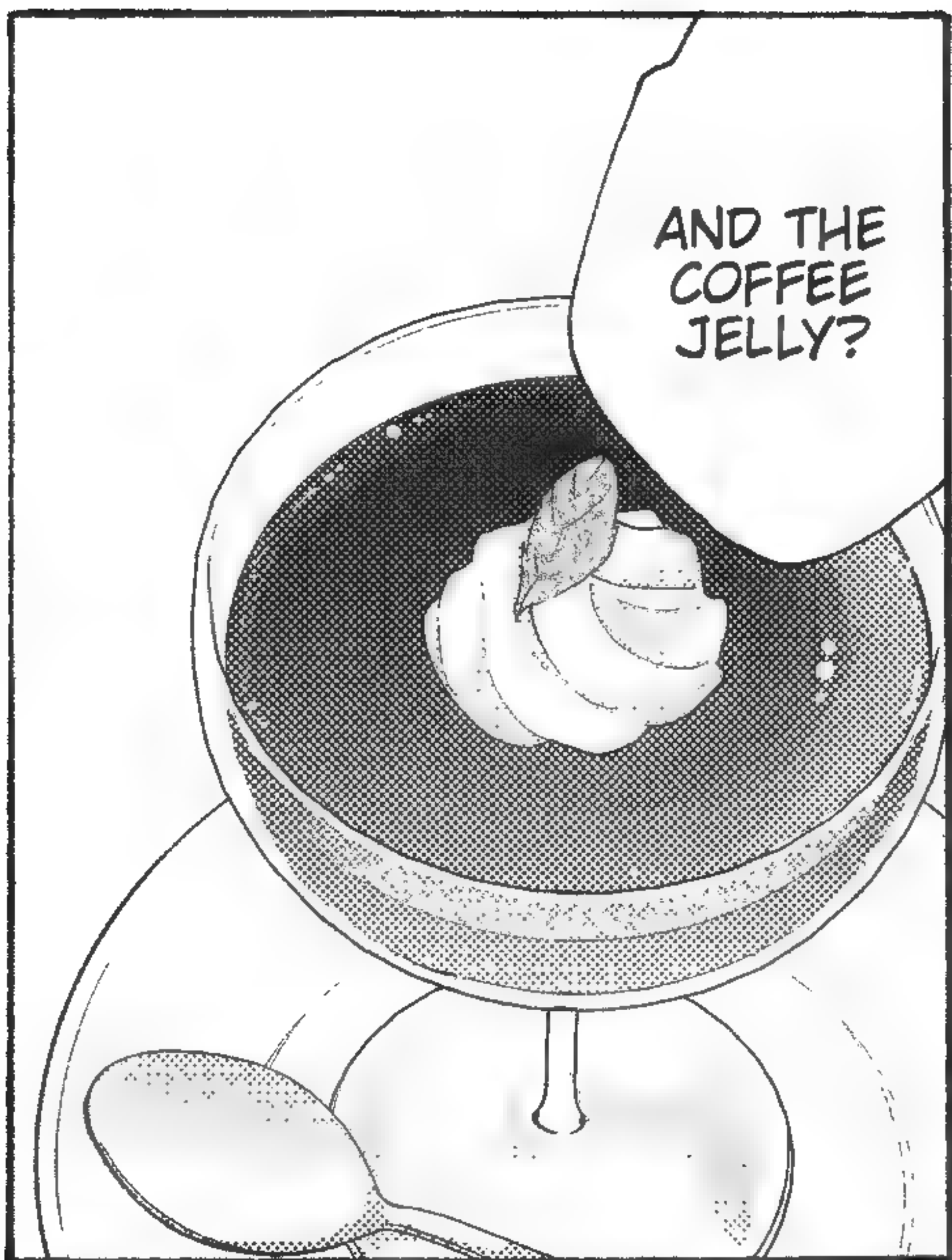
I KNOW  
IT'S A  
WEIRD TIME  
TO EAT,  
BUT...



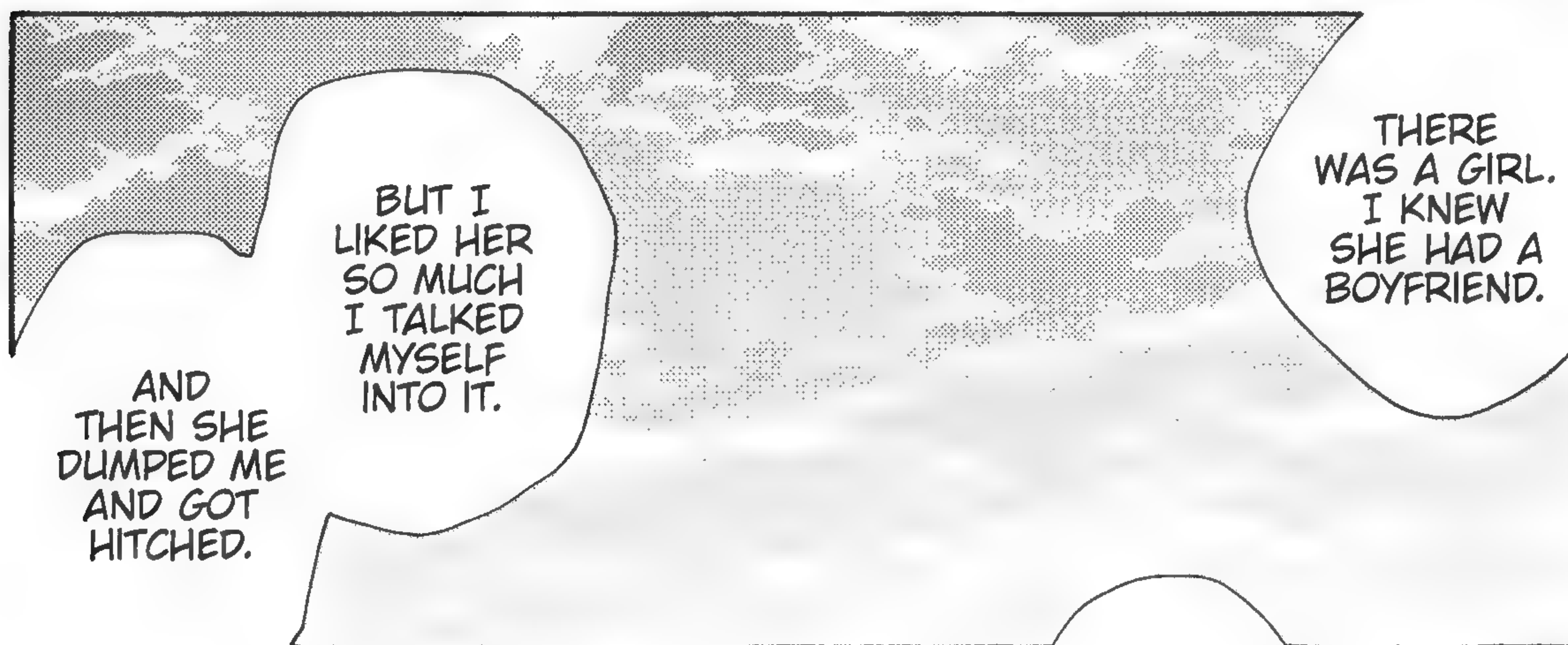
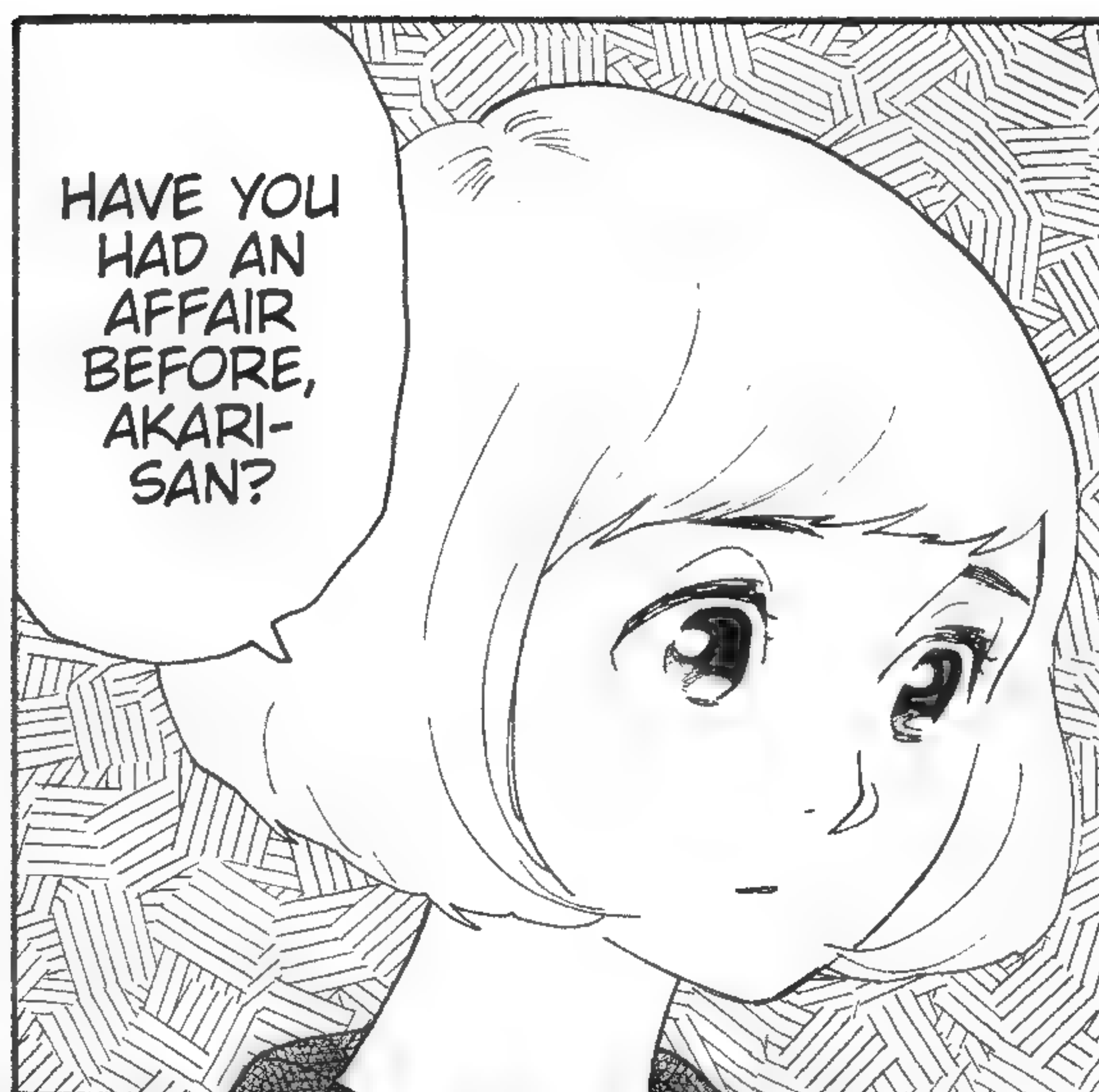




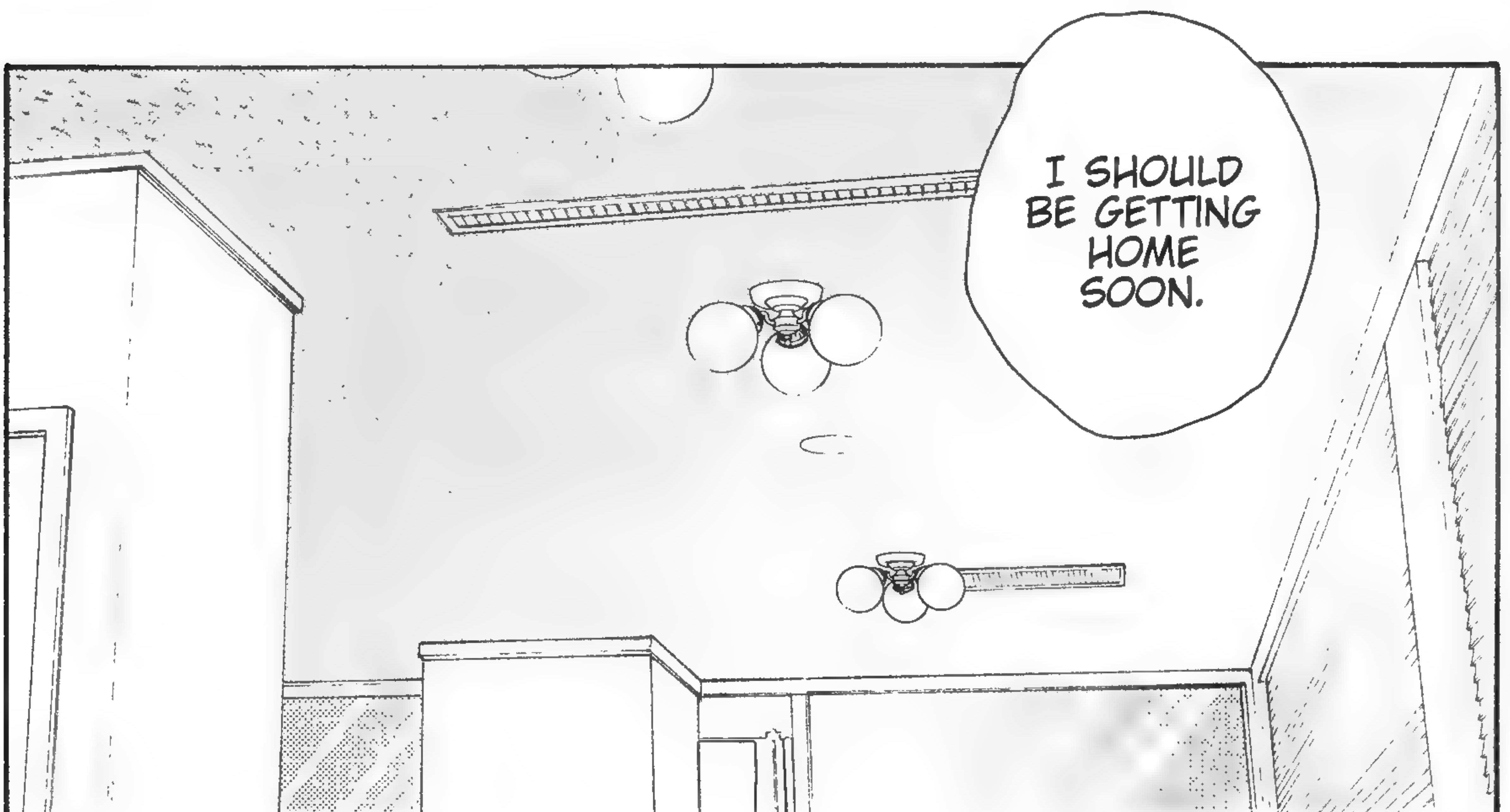
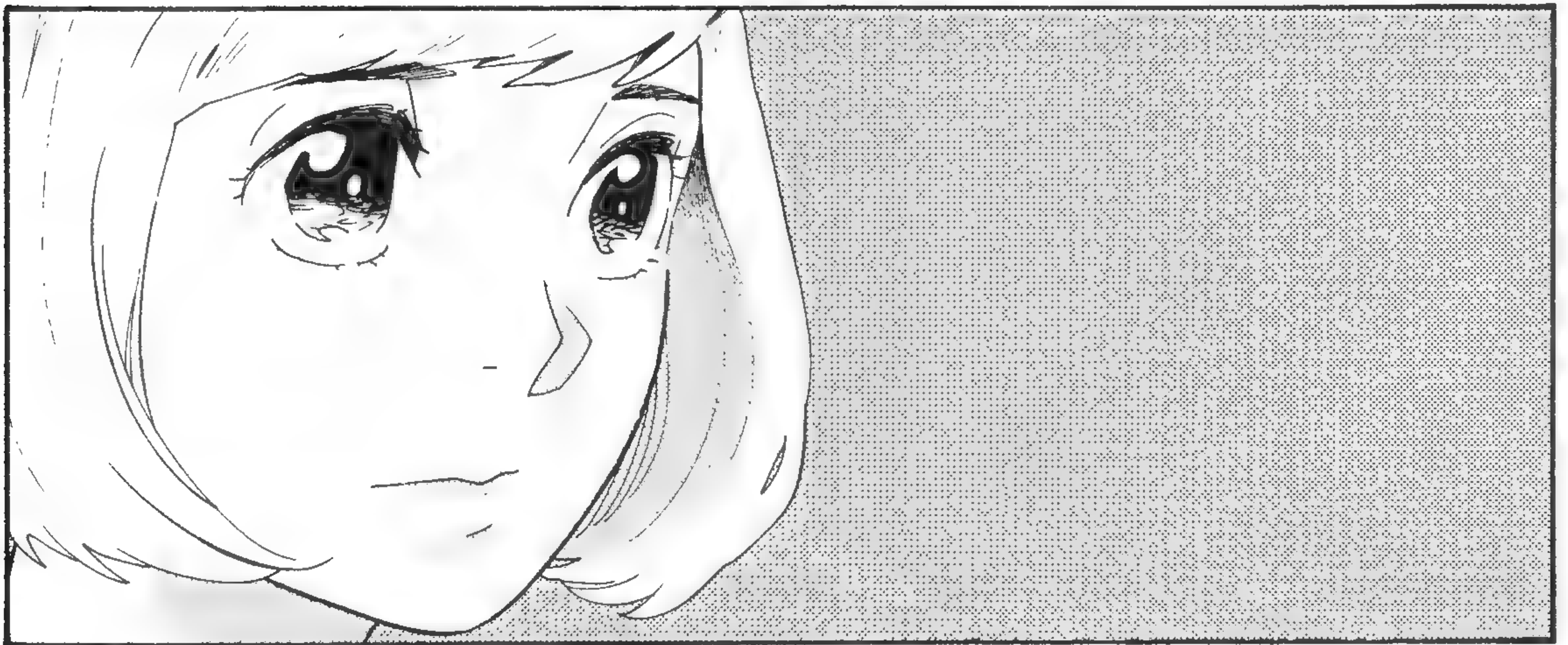




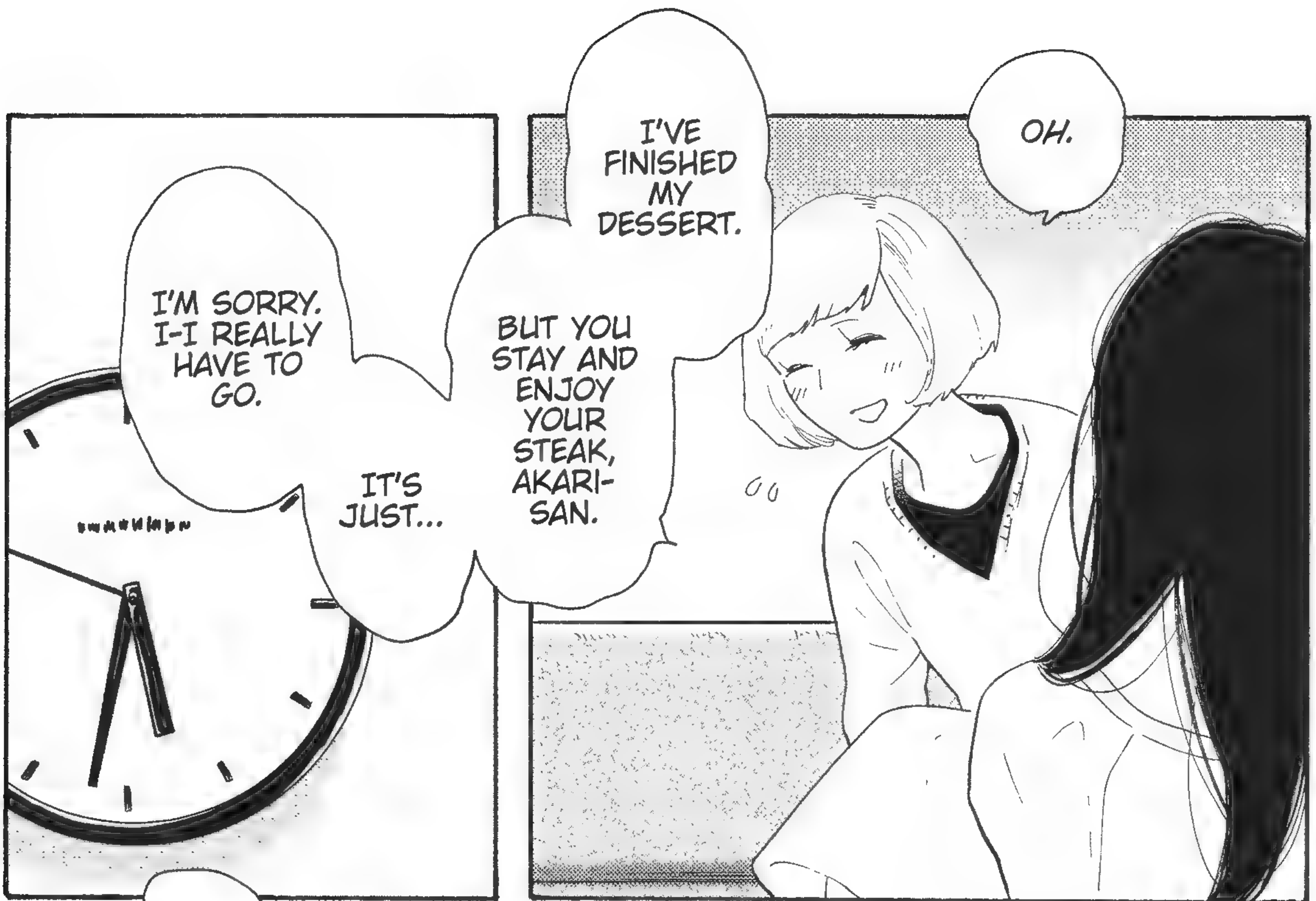




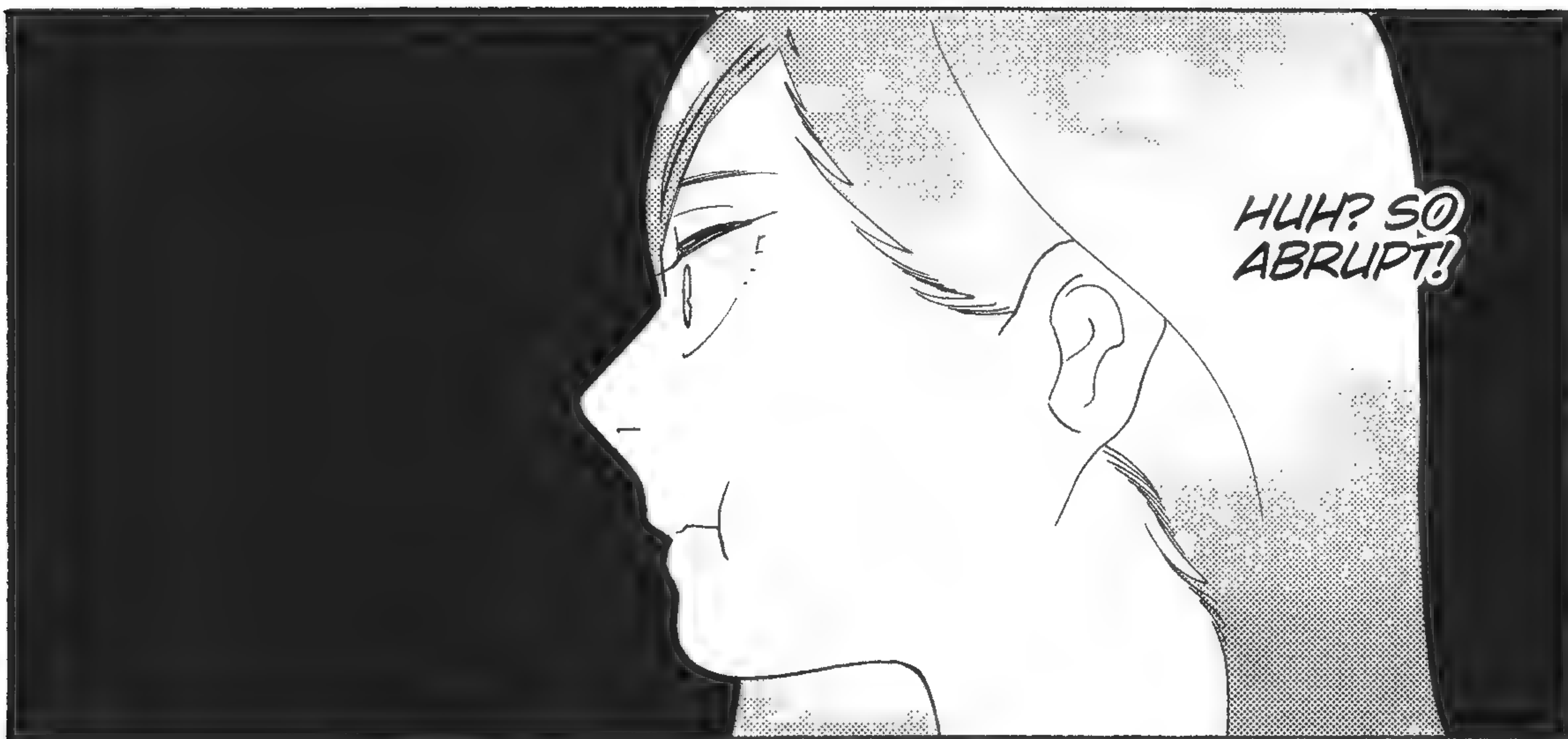












HUH? SO  
ABRUPT!



WHAT  
THE HECK  
WAS  
THAT?



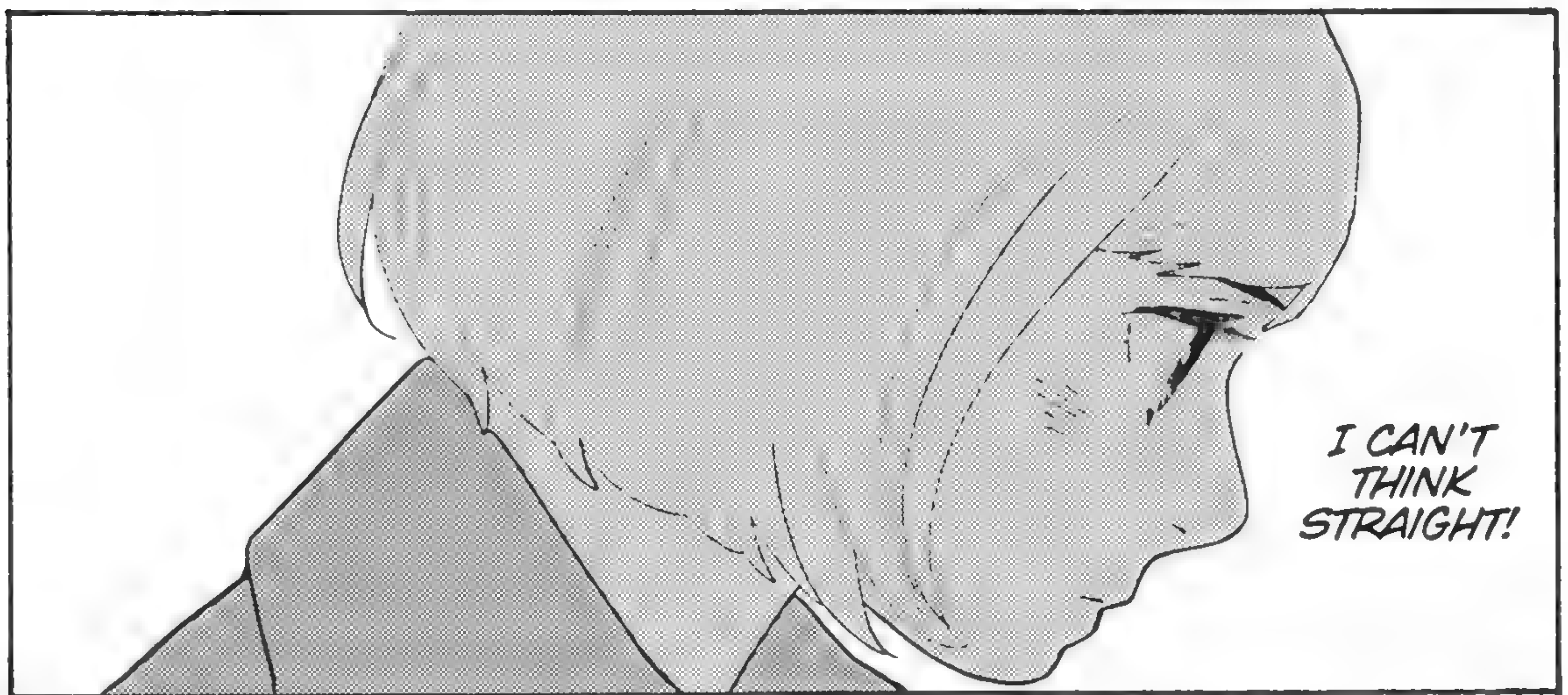
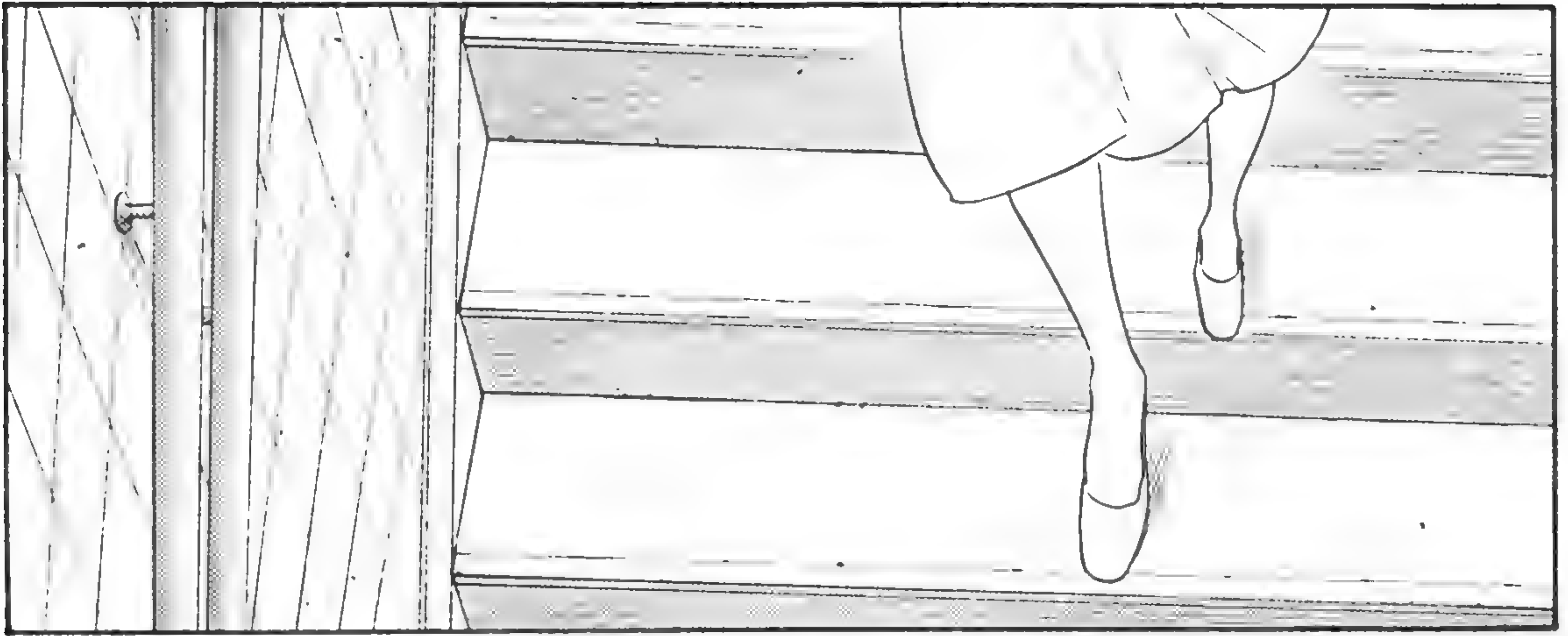
DID I PISS  
HER OFF  
SOMEHOW?

IS  
SHE  
MAD?

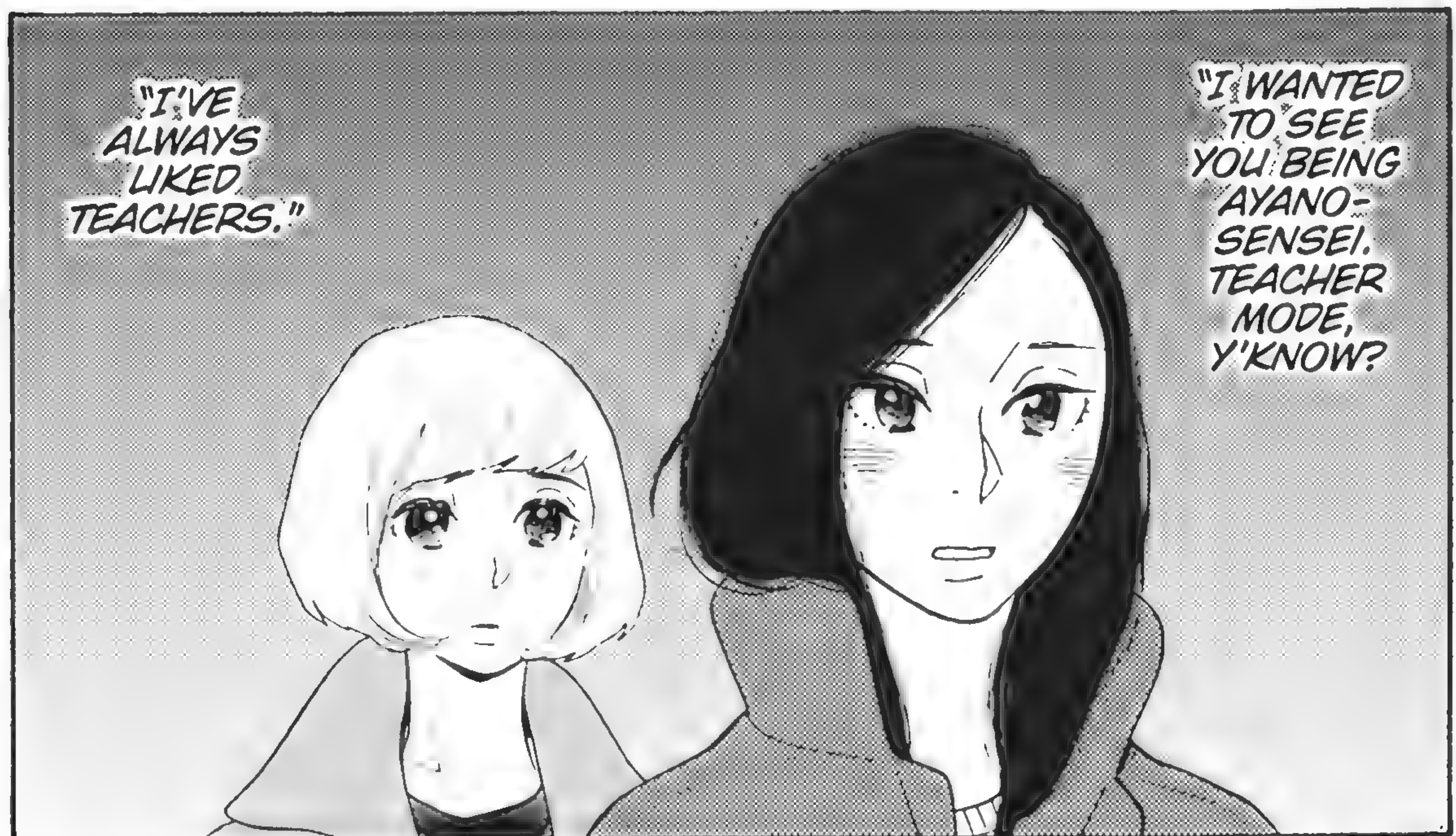








I CAN'T  
THINK  
STRAIGHT!



"I'VE  
ALWAYS  
LIKED  
TEACHERS."

"I WANTED  
TO SEE  
YOU BEING  
AYANO-  
SENSEI.  
TEACHER  
MODE,  
Y'KNOW?"

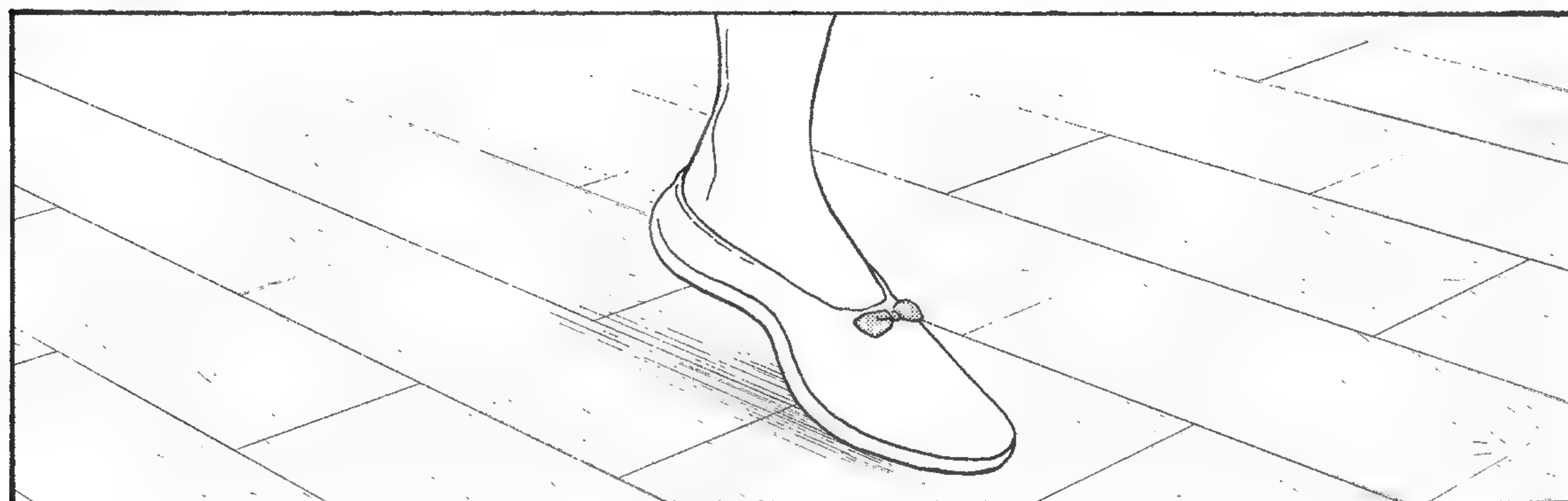
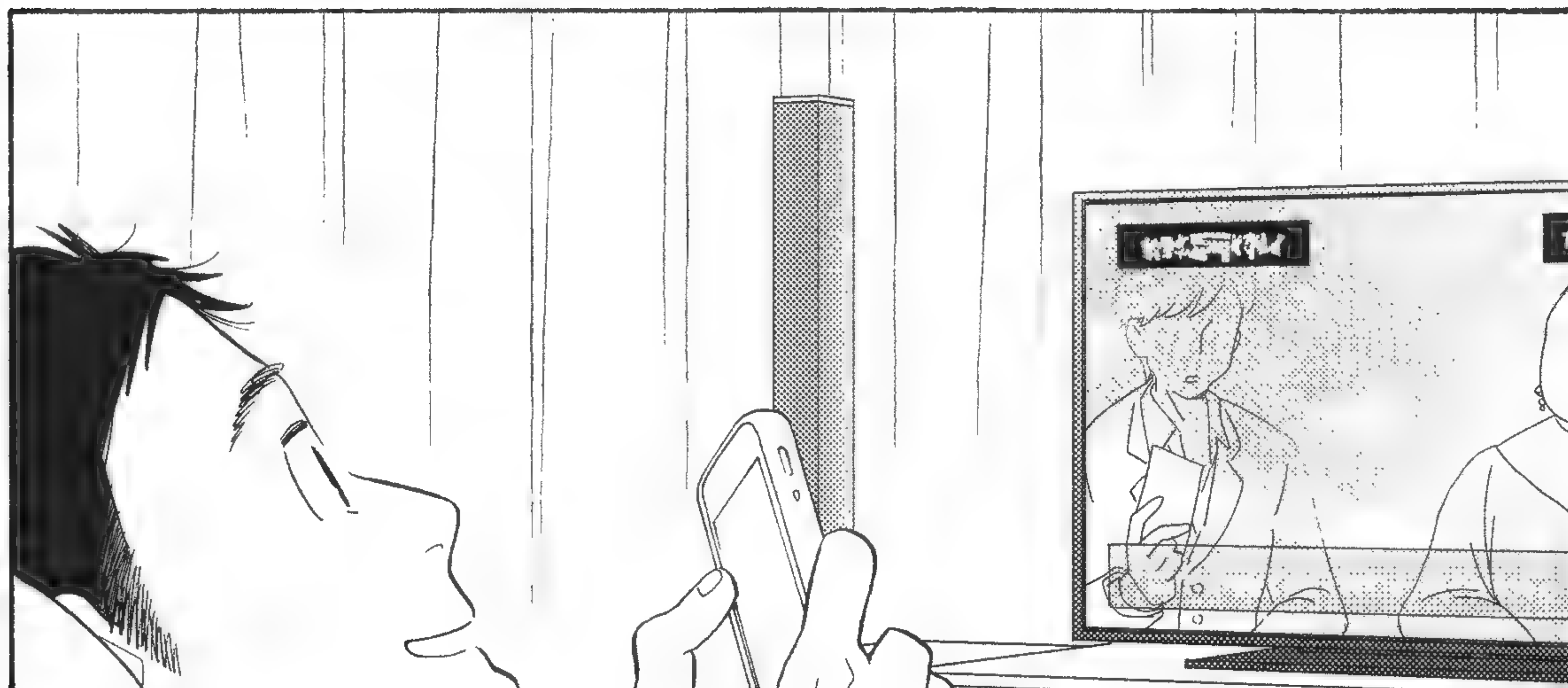
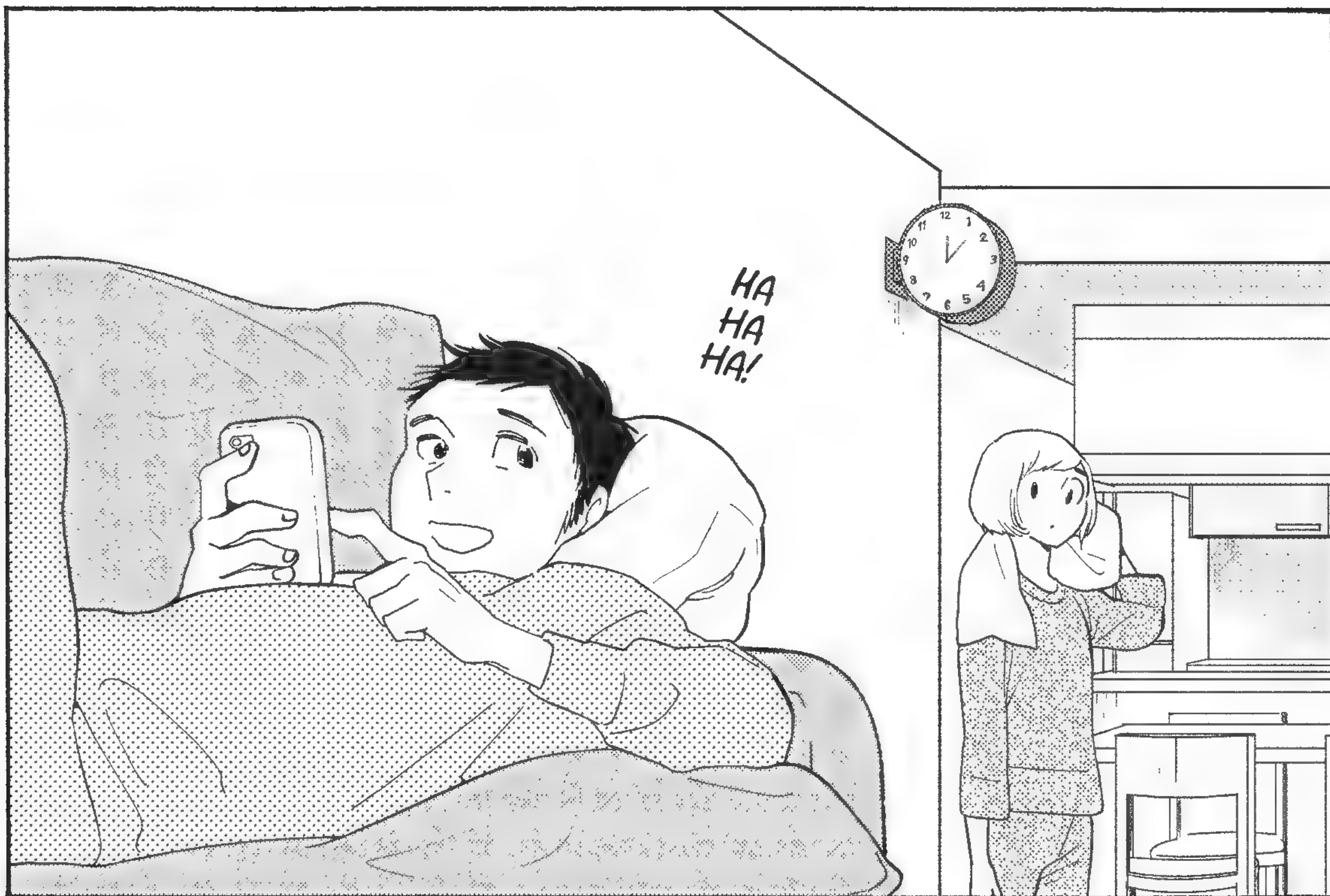


THE  
MOMENT  
SHE SAID  
THAT...

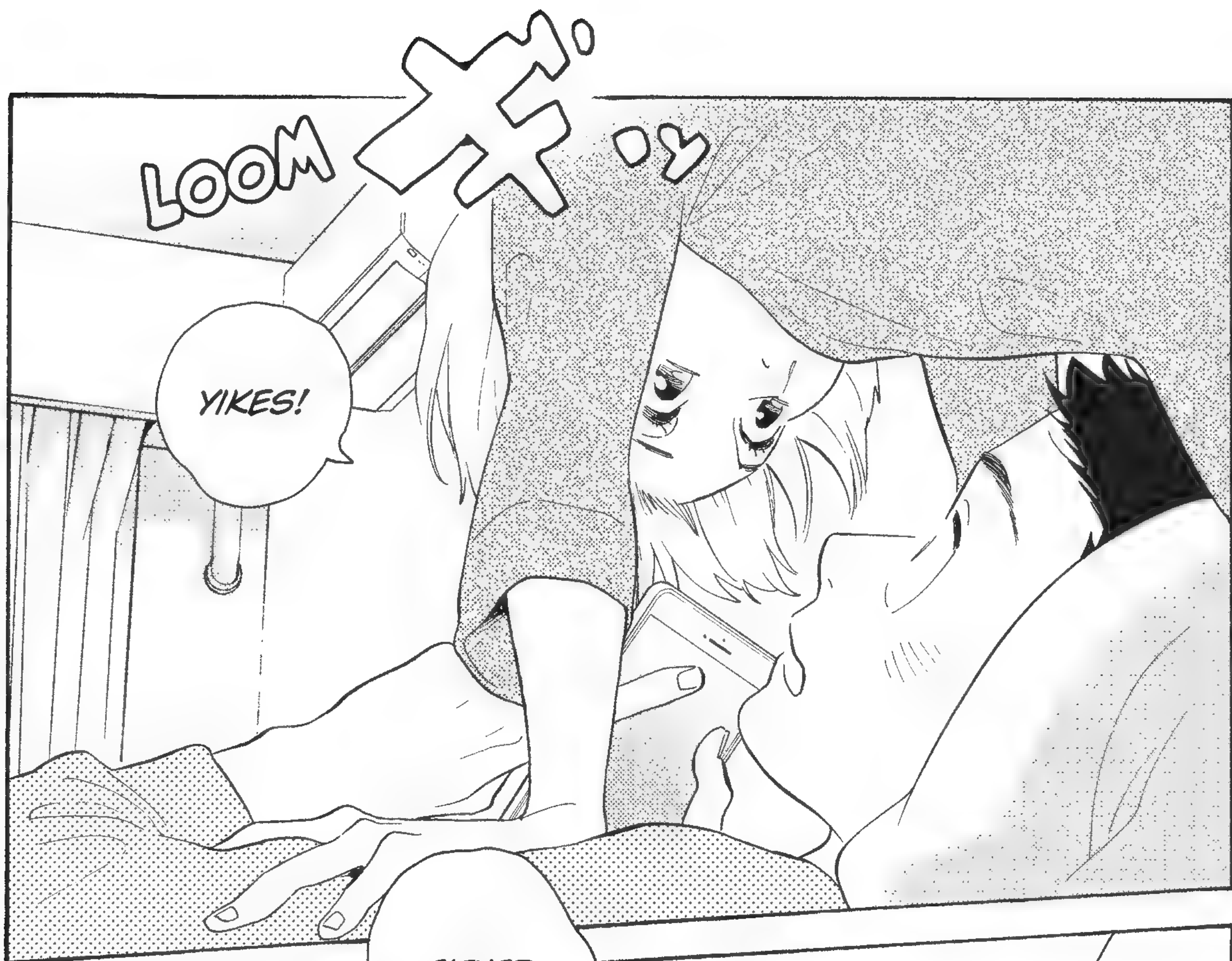
I WANTED  
TO WRAP  
MY ARMS  
AROUND  
HER.















HOW DID I  
LET IT GET  
THIS BAD?



I'LL  
BRING  
THE  
SIGN  
IN.

THANKS!



BUT  
LIKE...

SORRY  
FOR  
STAYING  
SO  
LATE!

THANK  
YOU SO  
MUCH!

EVERY-  
THING  
WAS  
SO  
TASTY!

SEE  
YOU  
AGAIN  
SOON!

ARE WE  
ACTUALLY  
GOING  
TO MEET  
AGAIN?!

CAN  
WE?!

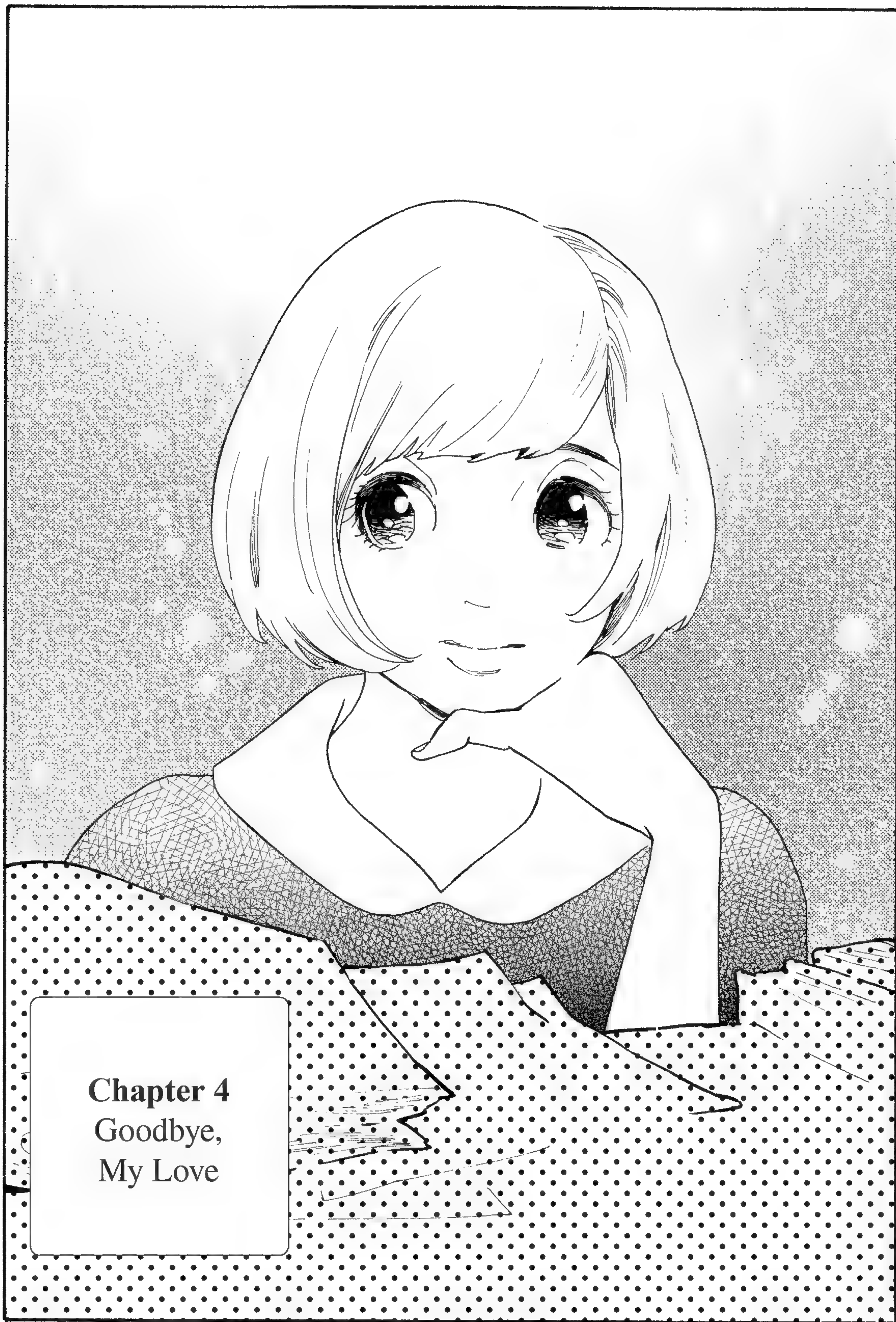
DAMN IT!  
SHE'S  
ALREADY  
GOT ME  
WRAPPED  
AROUND  
HER  
FINGER!

I CAN'T  
STAND  
THIS!

WHAT  
HAPPENS  
IF WE  
DO?!

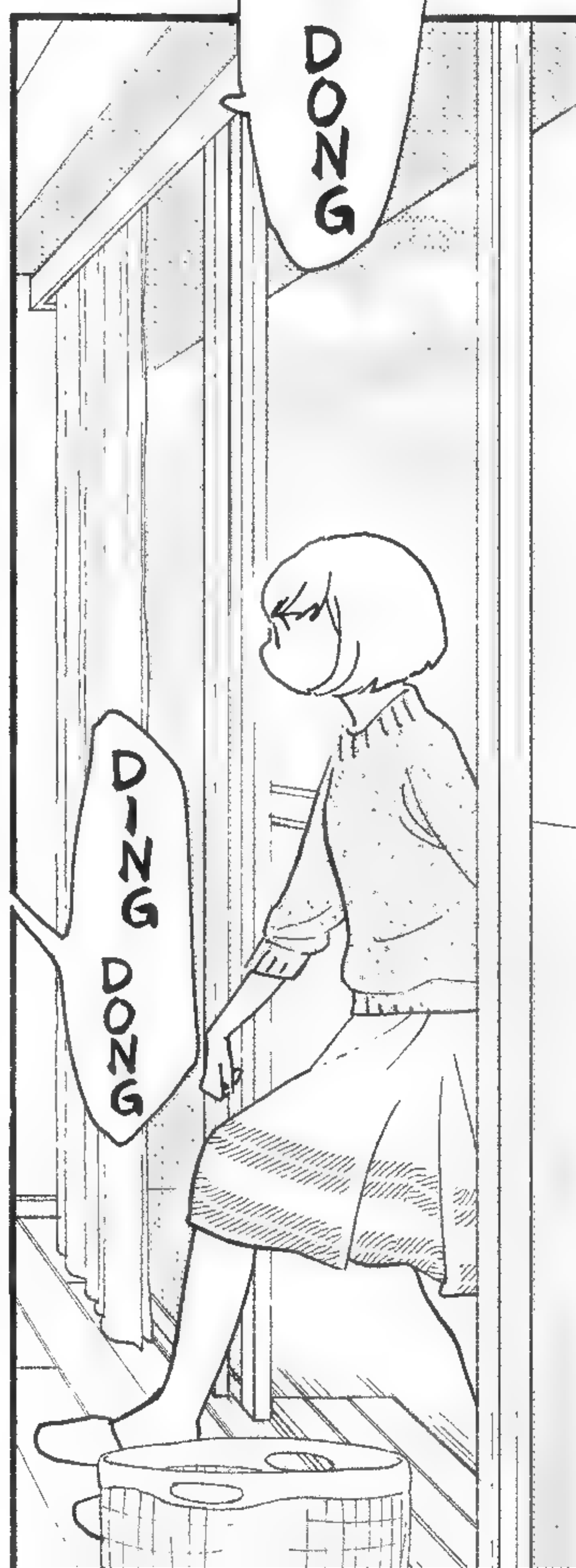
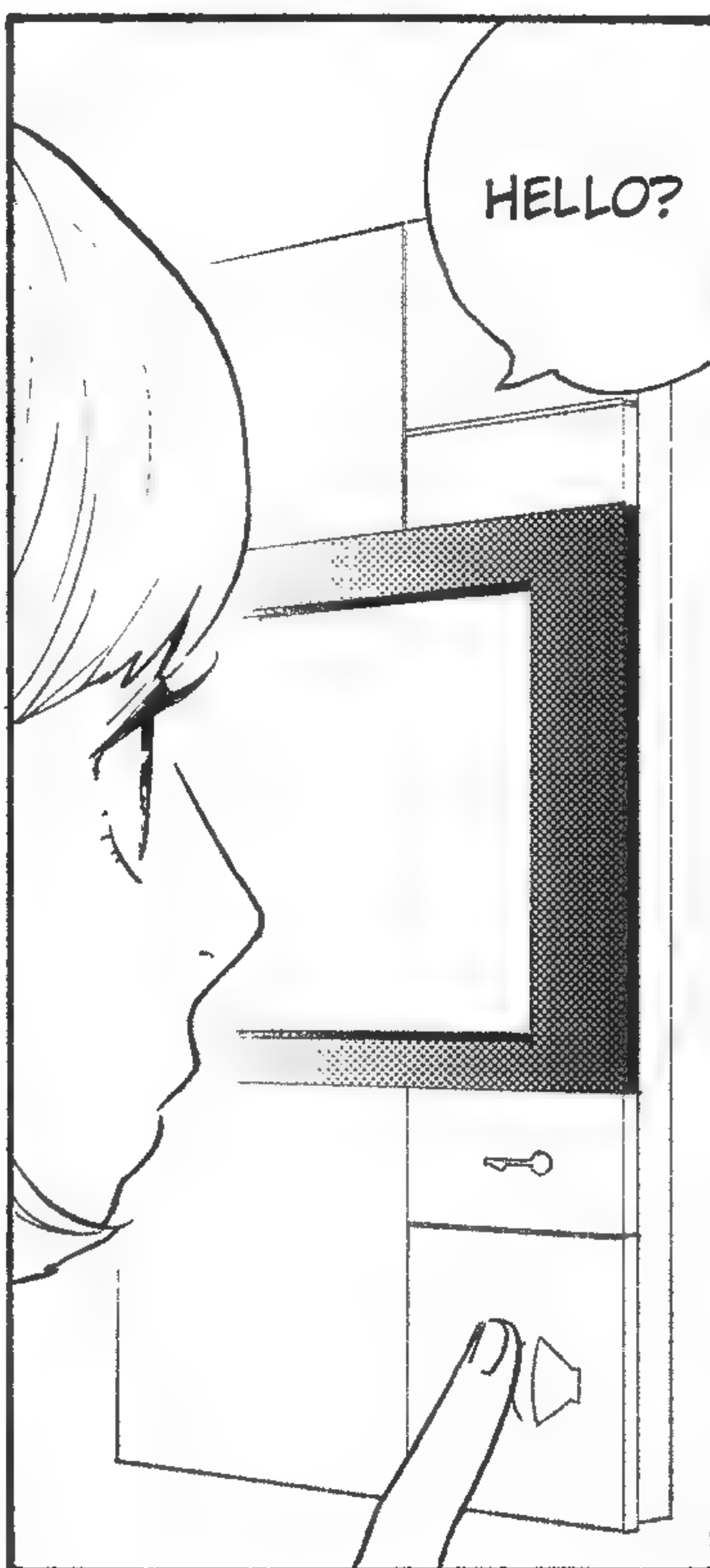
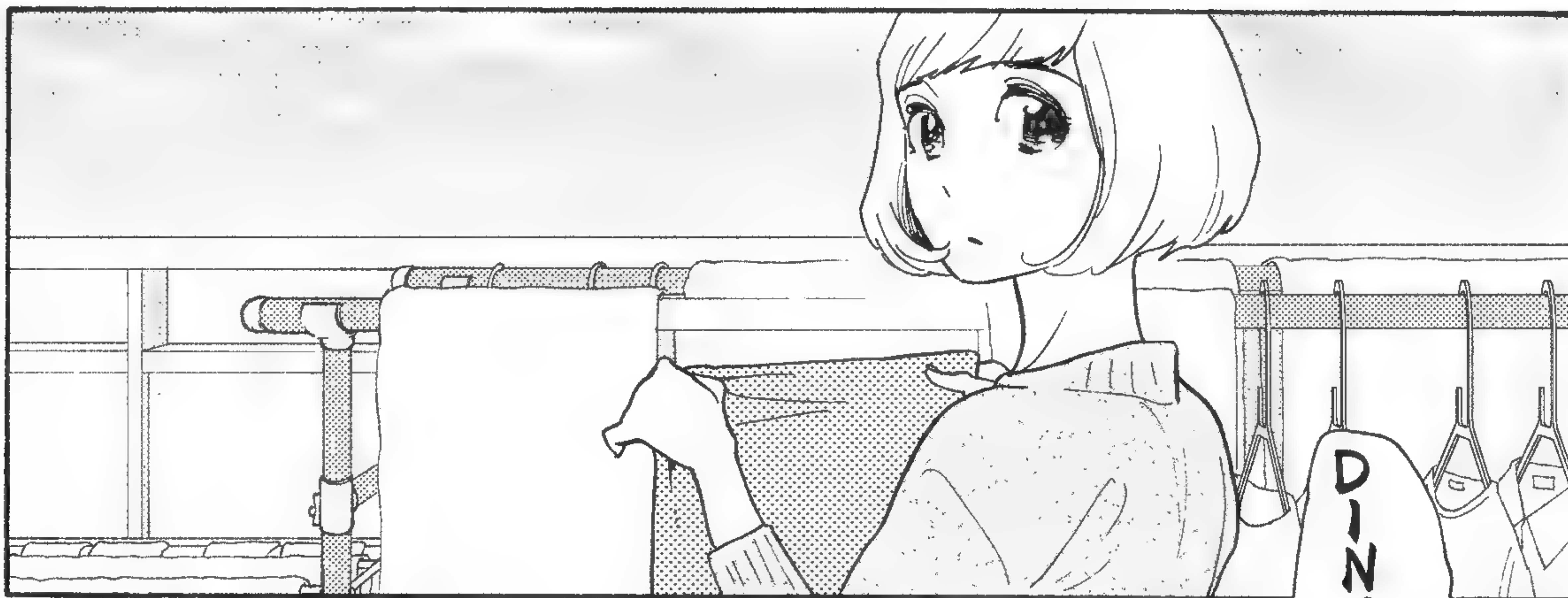
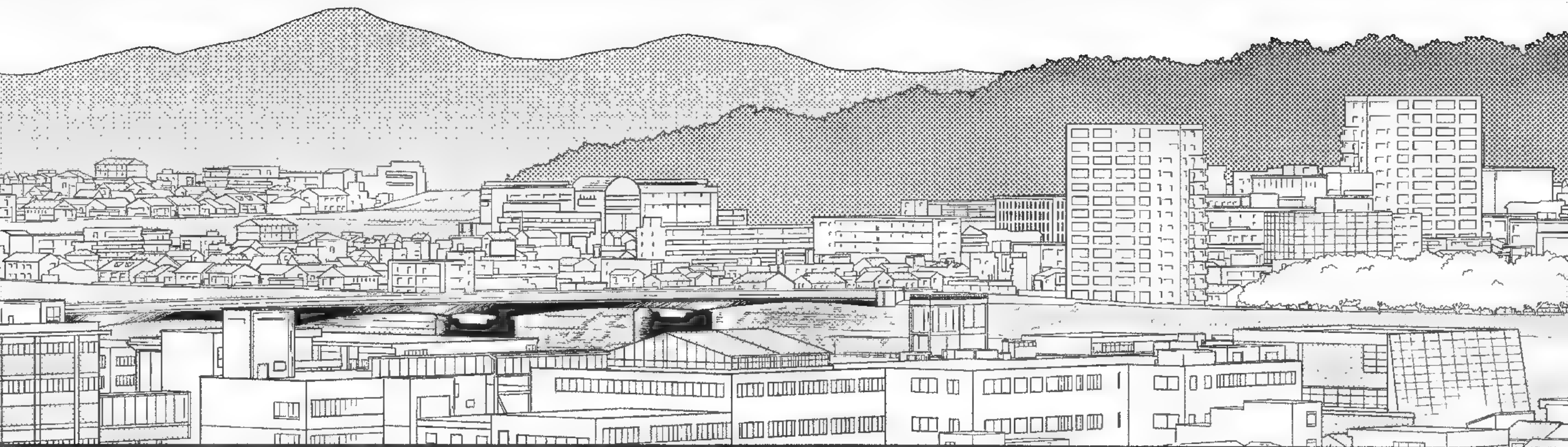
HAVE A  
GOOD  
NIGHT!



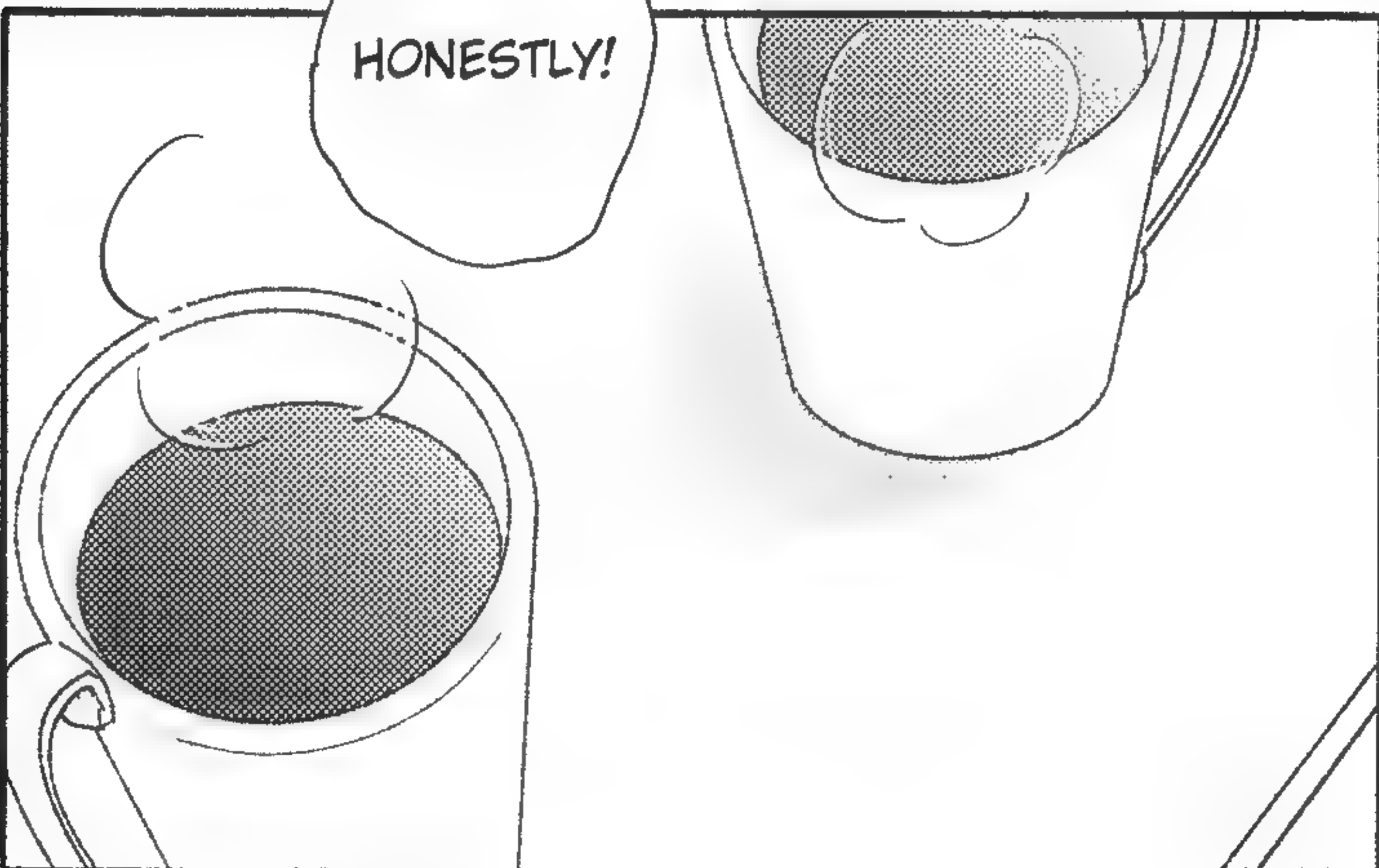
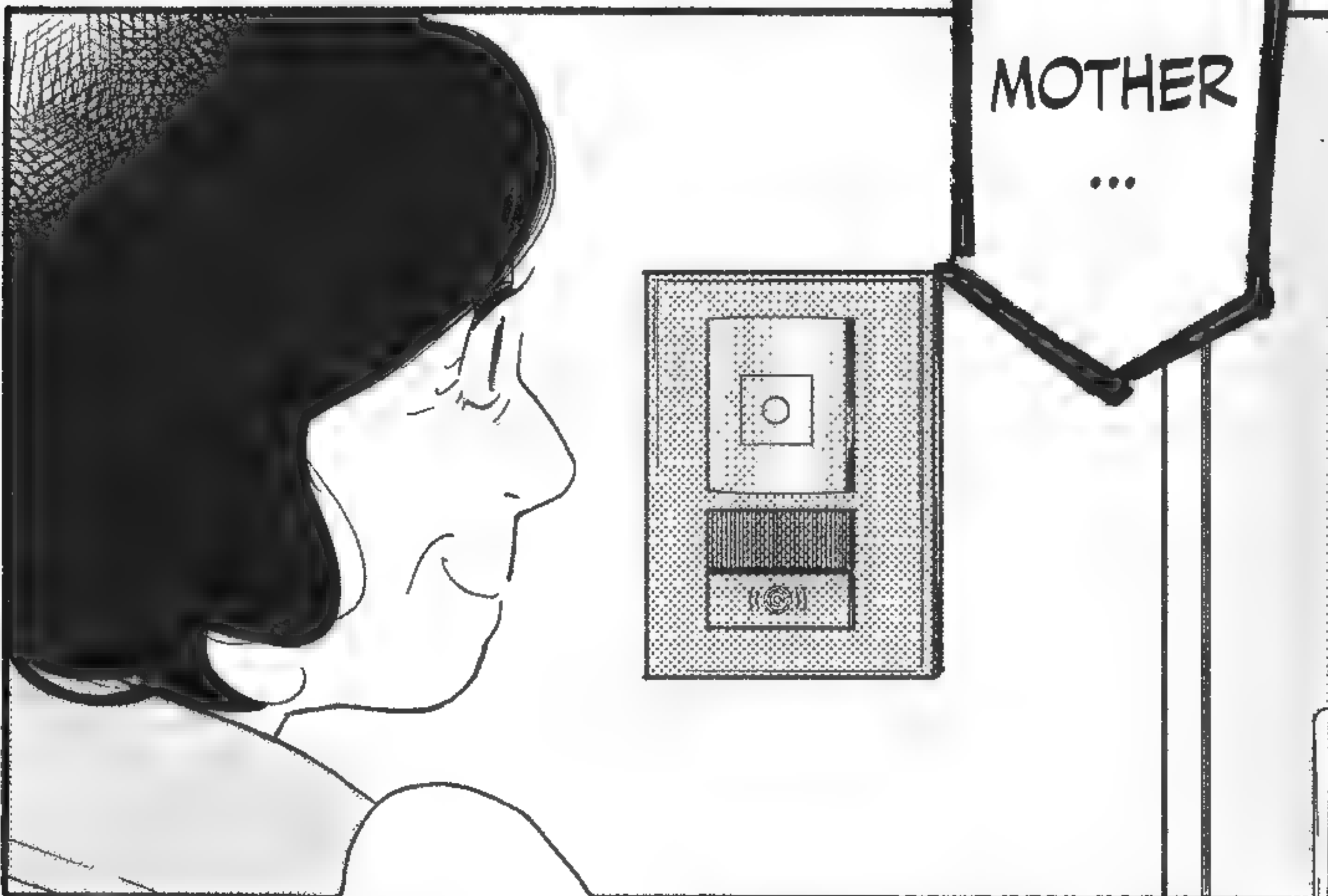
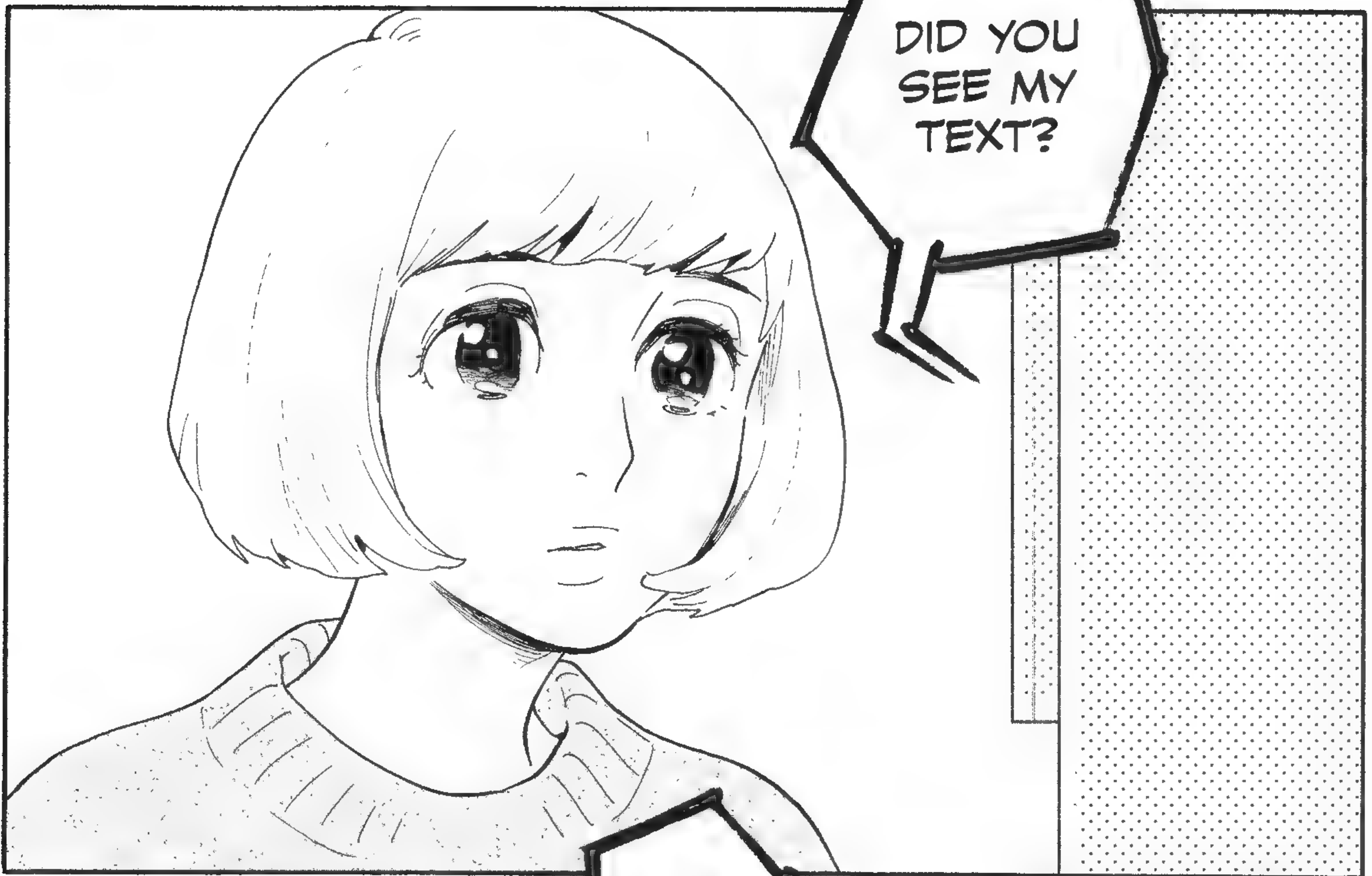


**Chapter 4**  
Goodbye,  
My Love













I TOLD YOU  
THERE'S NO  
POINT IN  
TEXTING ME  
FIVE MINUTES  
BEFORE YOU  
GET HERE!

IT'S  
FINE,  
THOUGH.

YOU  
WERE  
HOME  
THIS  
TIME!



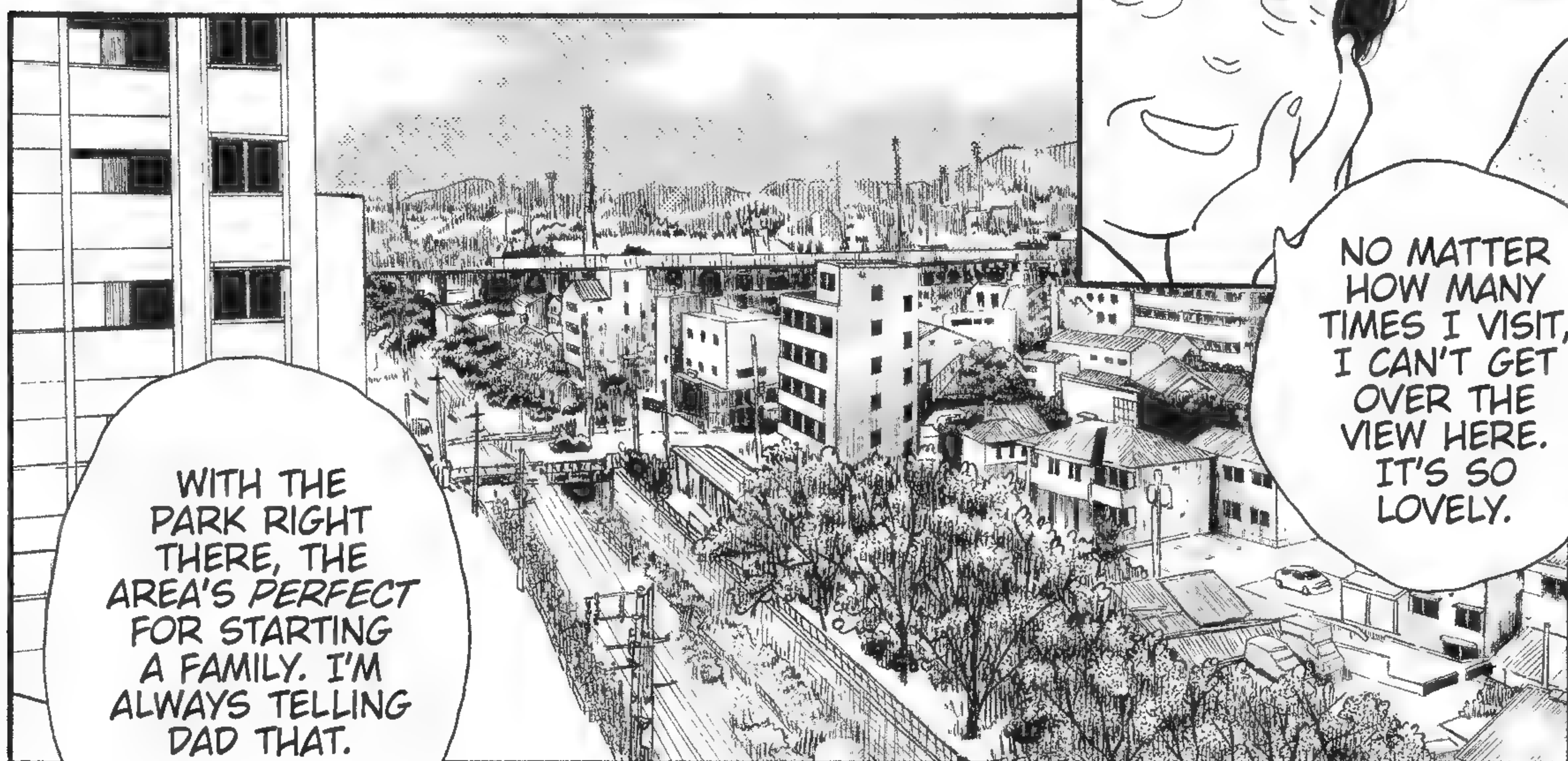
HE'S  
STILL  
ASLEEP.



FINE,  
FINE.

WHERE'S  
WATARU?

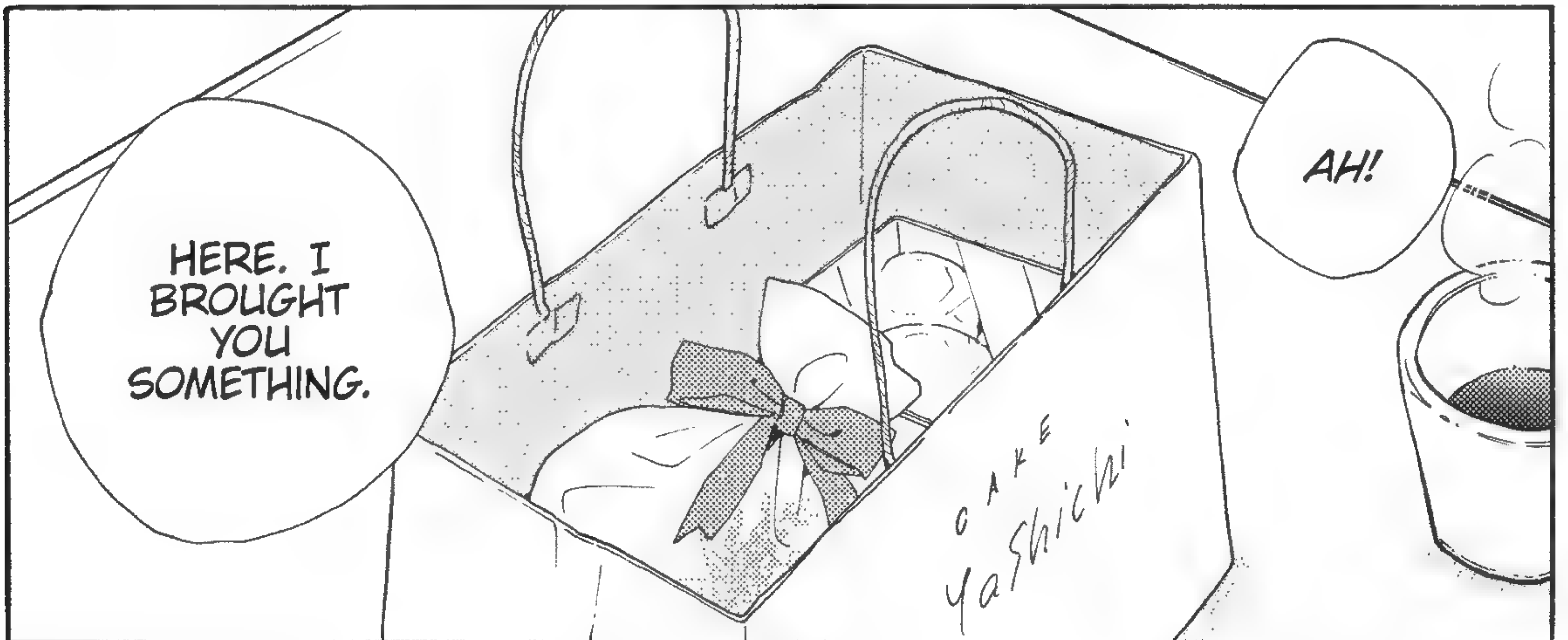
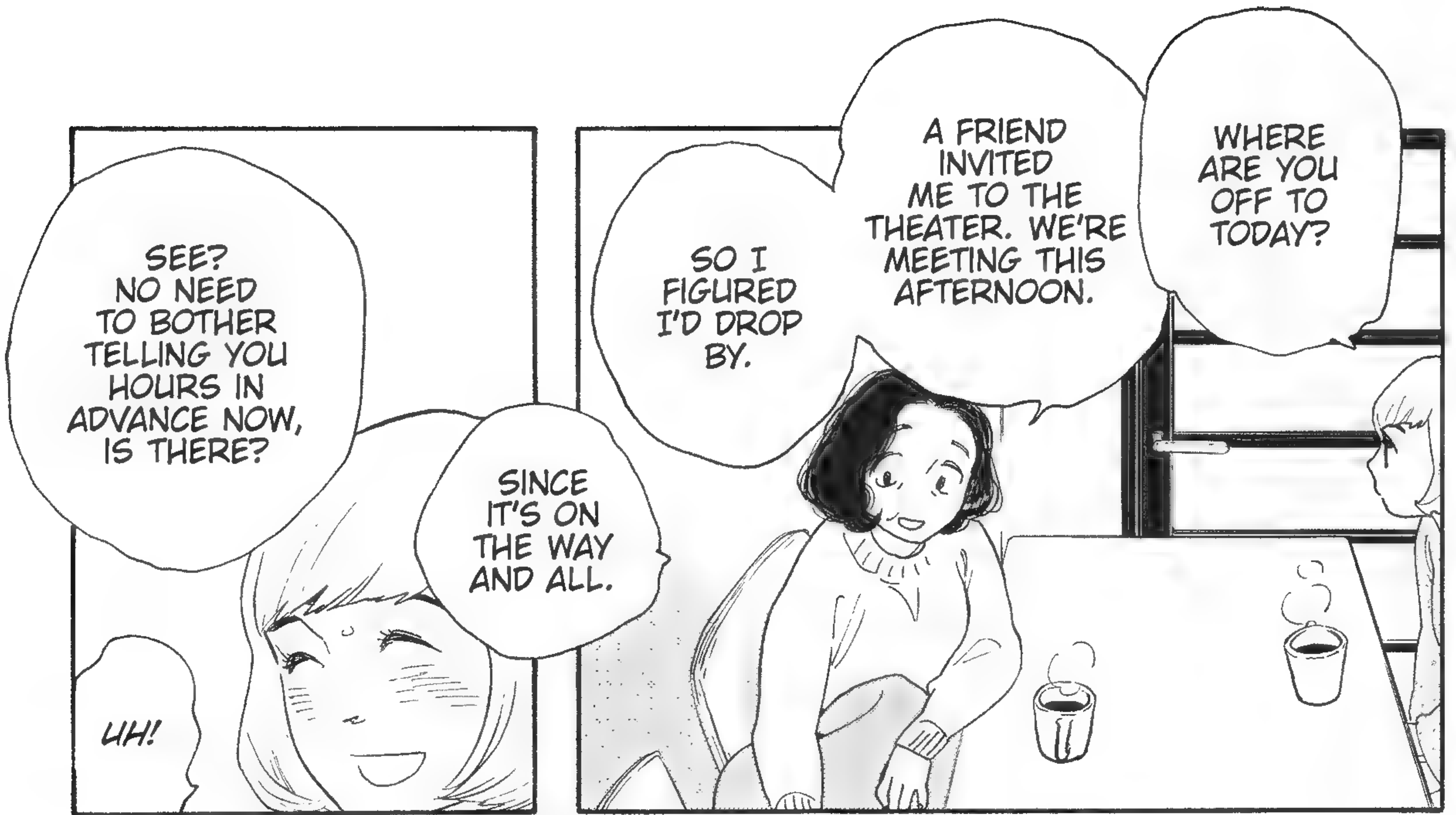
I ALSO GO  
OUT, YOU  
KNOW. AT  
LEAST TEXT  
ME BEFORE  
YOU LEAVE  
THE HOUSE.



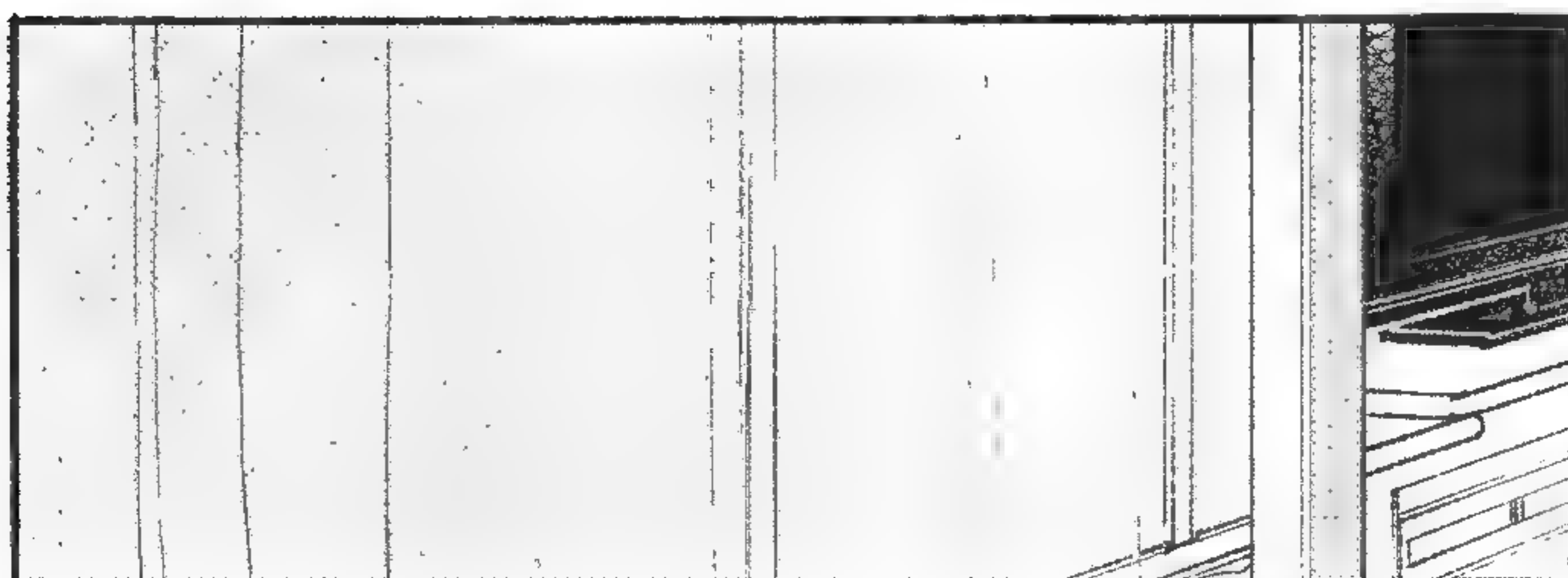
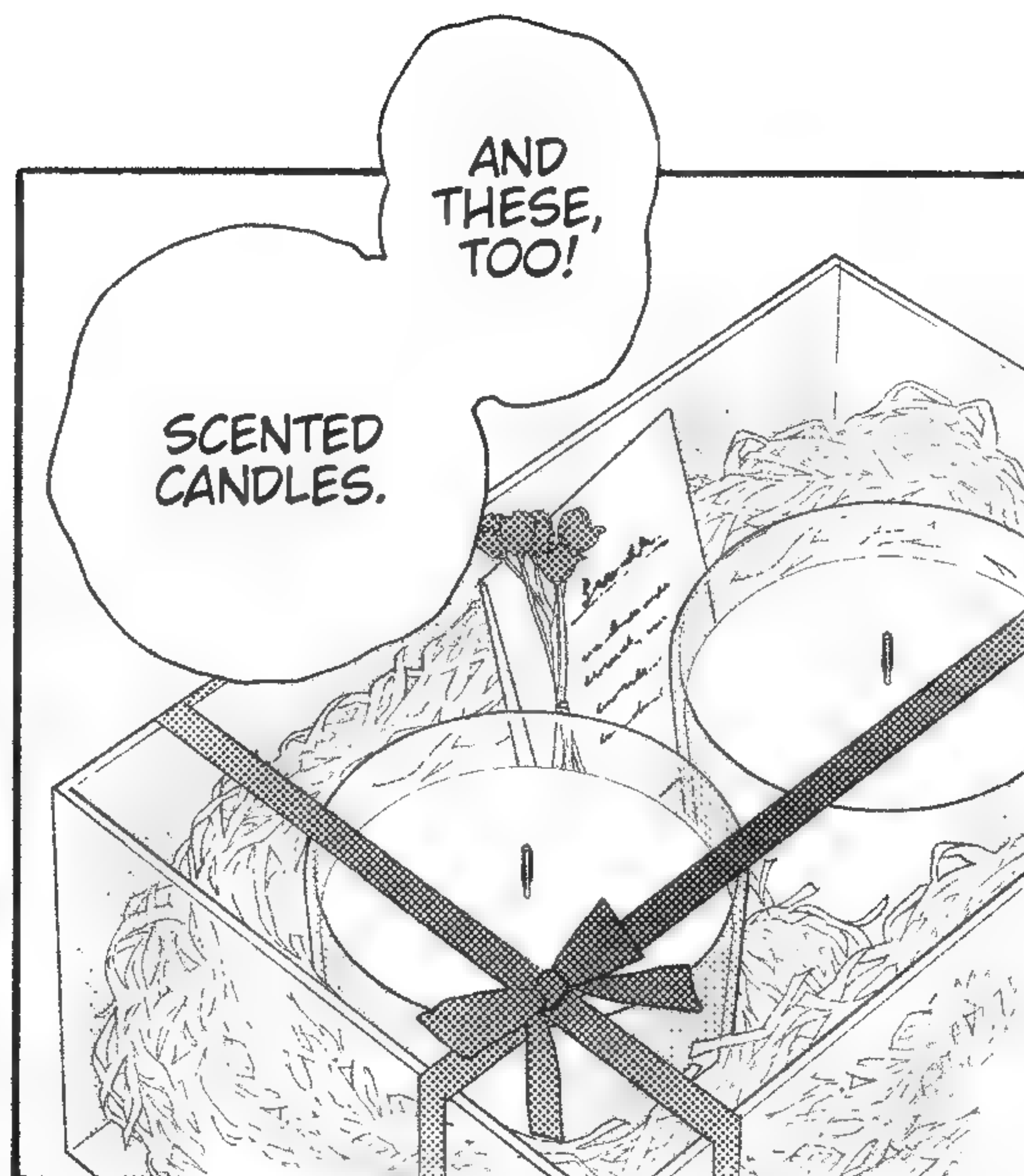
WITH THE  
PARK RIGHT  
THERE, THE  
AREA'S PERFECT  
FOR STARTING  
A FAMILY. I'M  
ALWAYS TELLING  
DAD THAT.

NO MATTER  
HOW MANY  
TIMES I VISIT,  
I CAN'T GET  
OVER THE  
VIEW HERE.  
IT'S SO  
LOVELY.

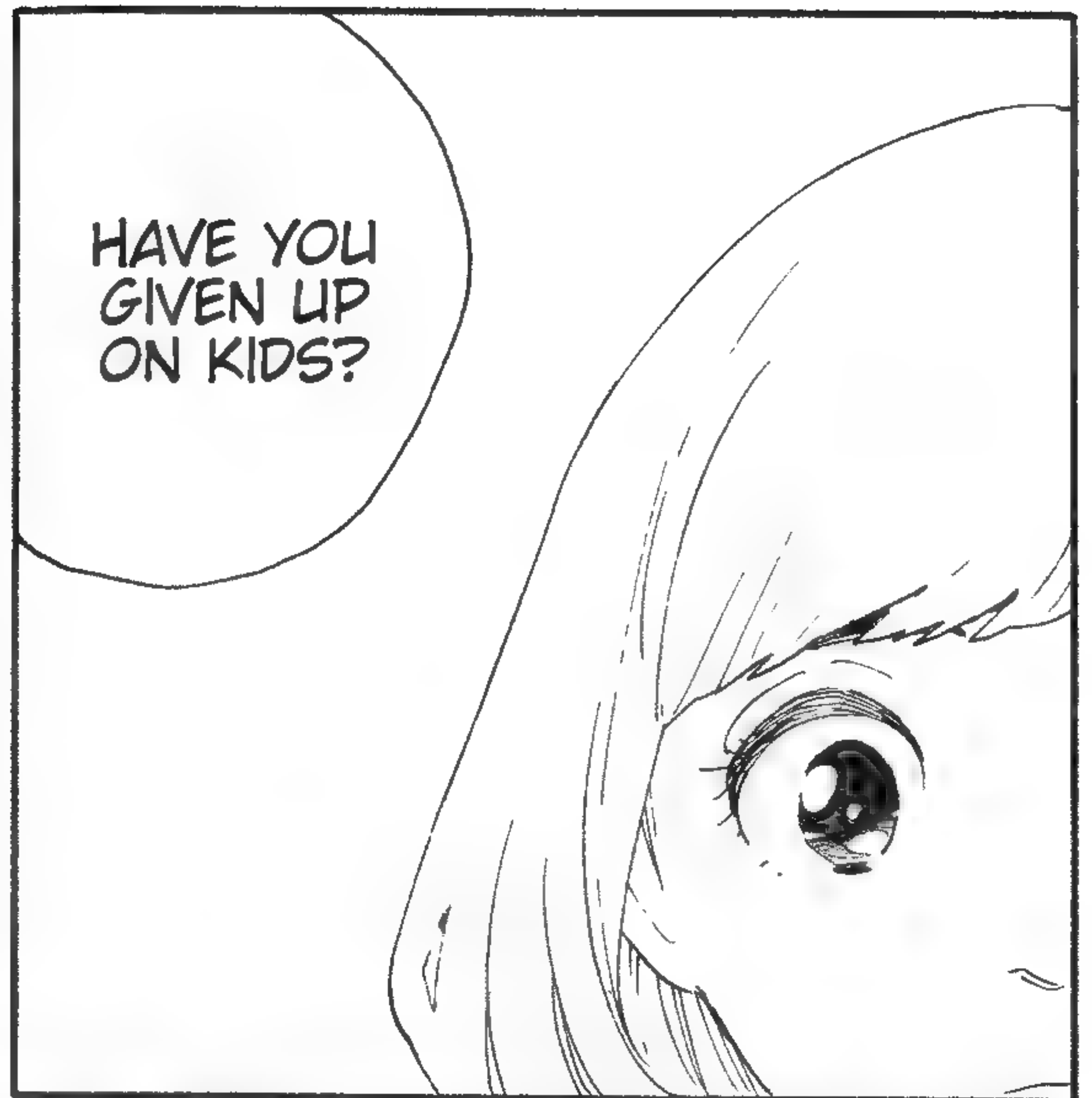




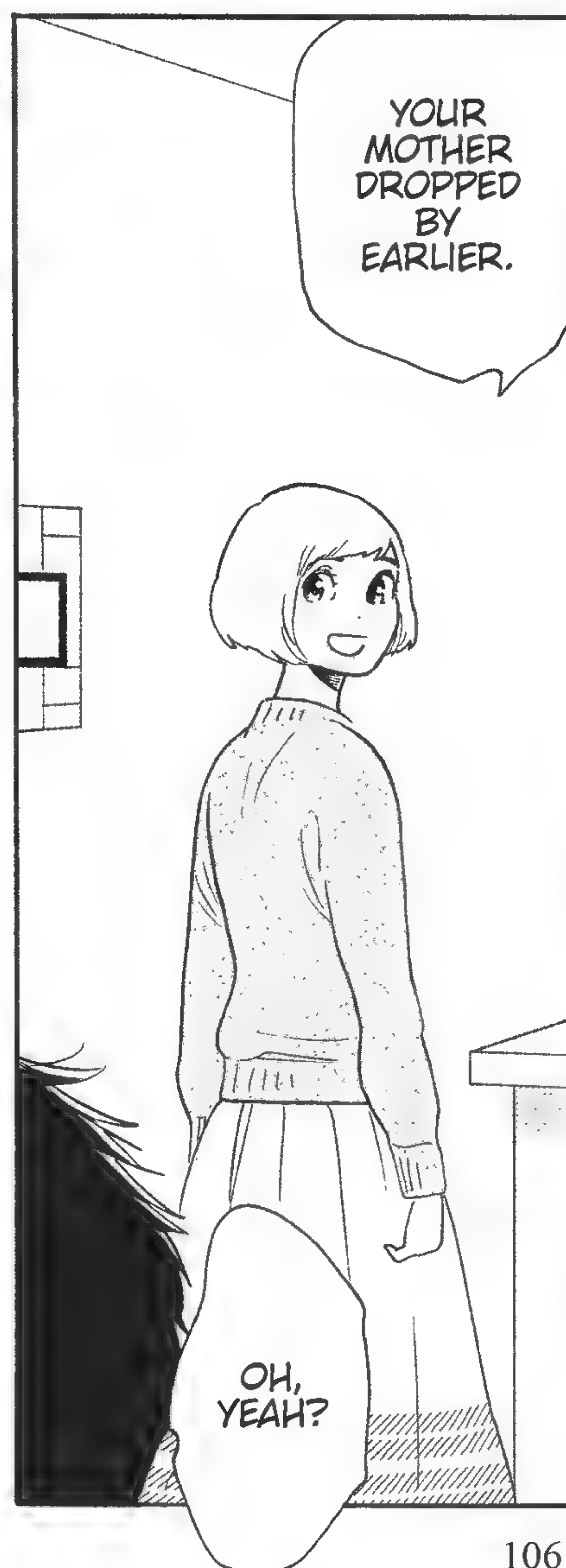
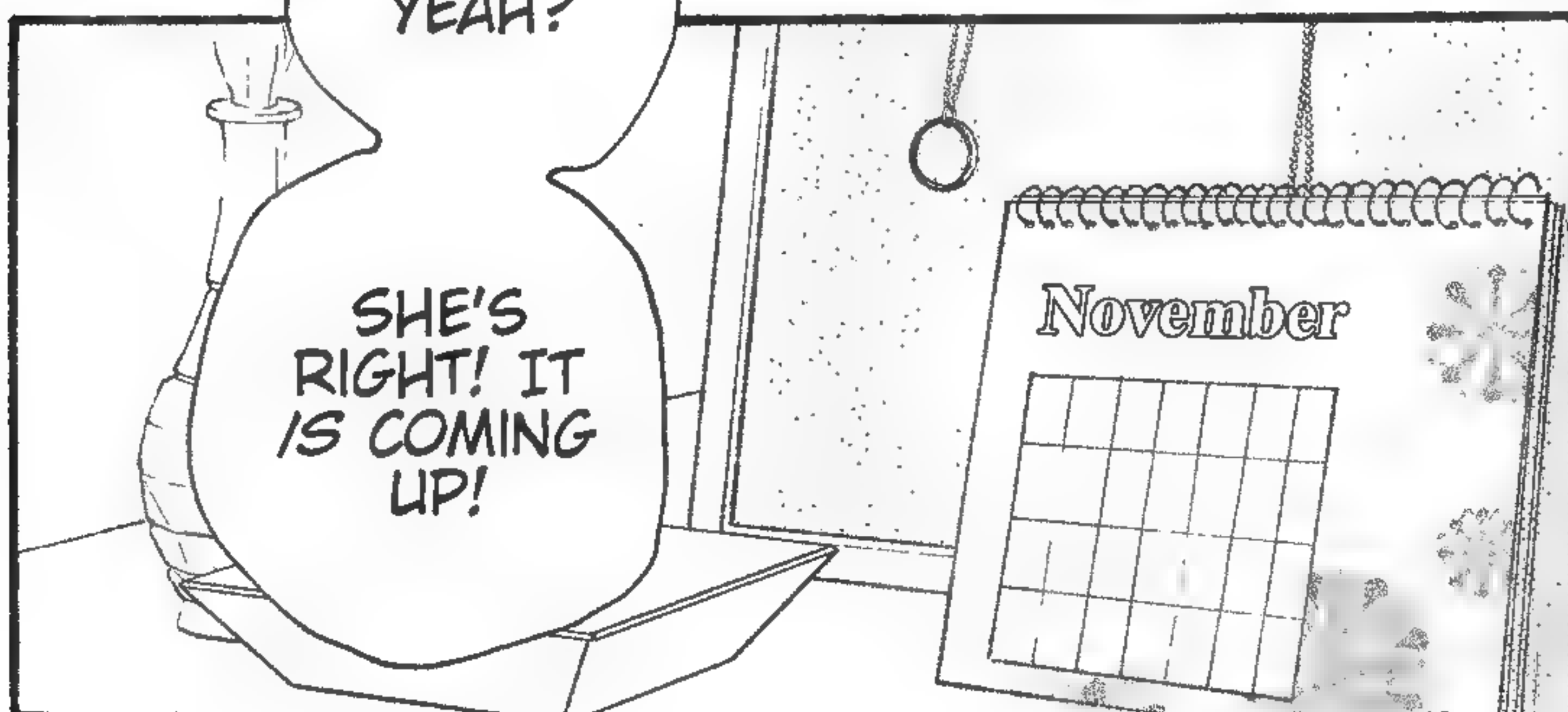
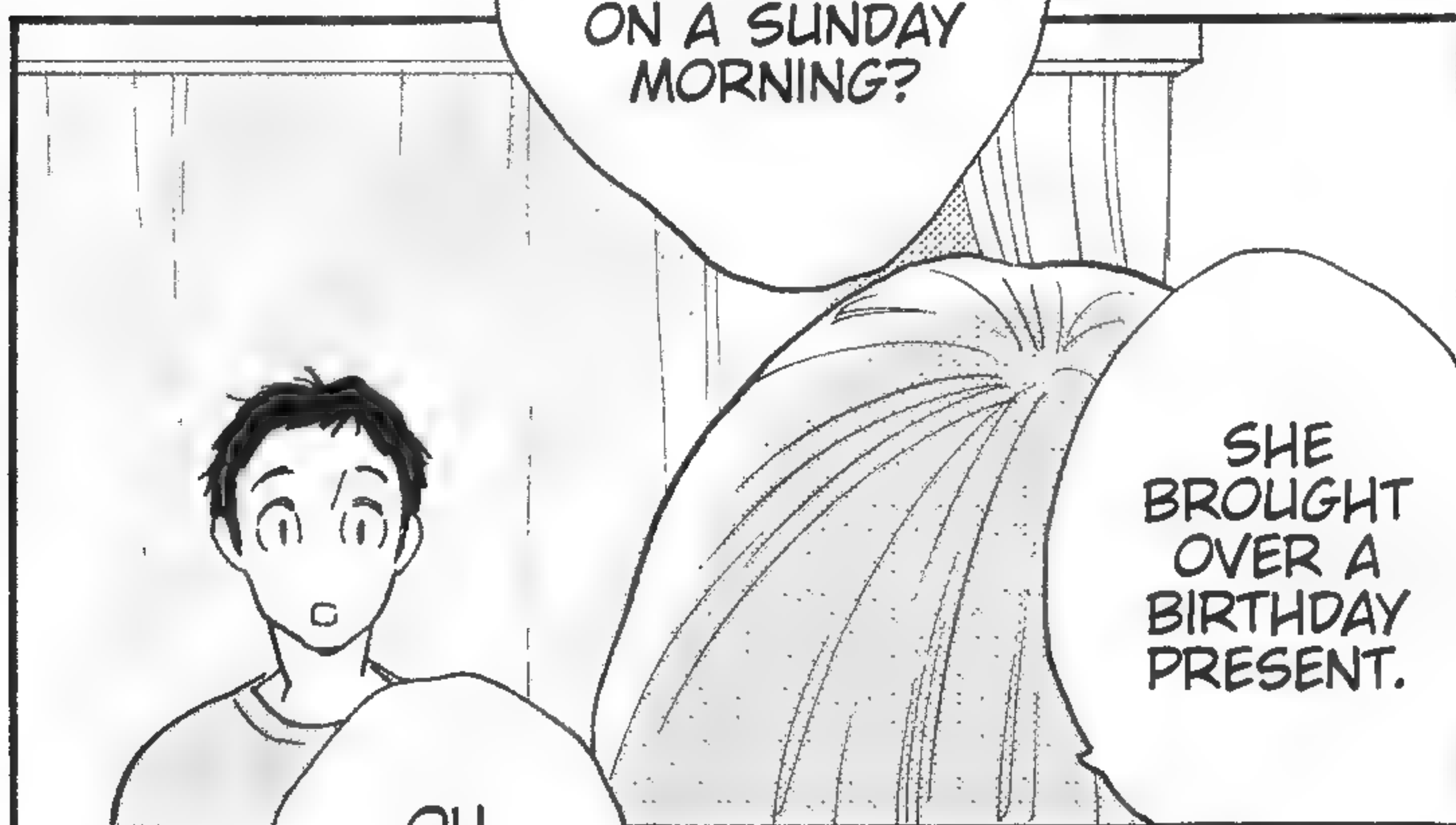
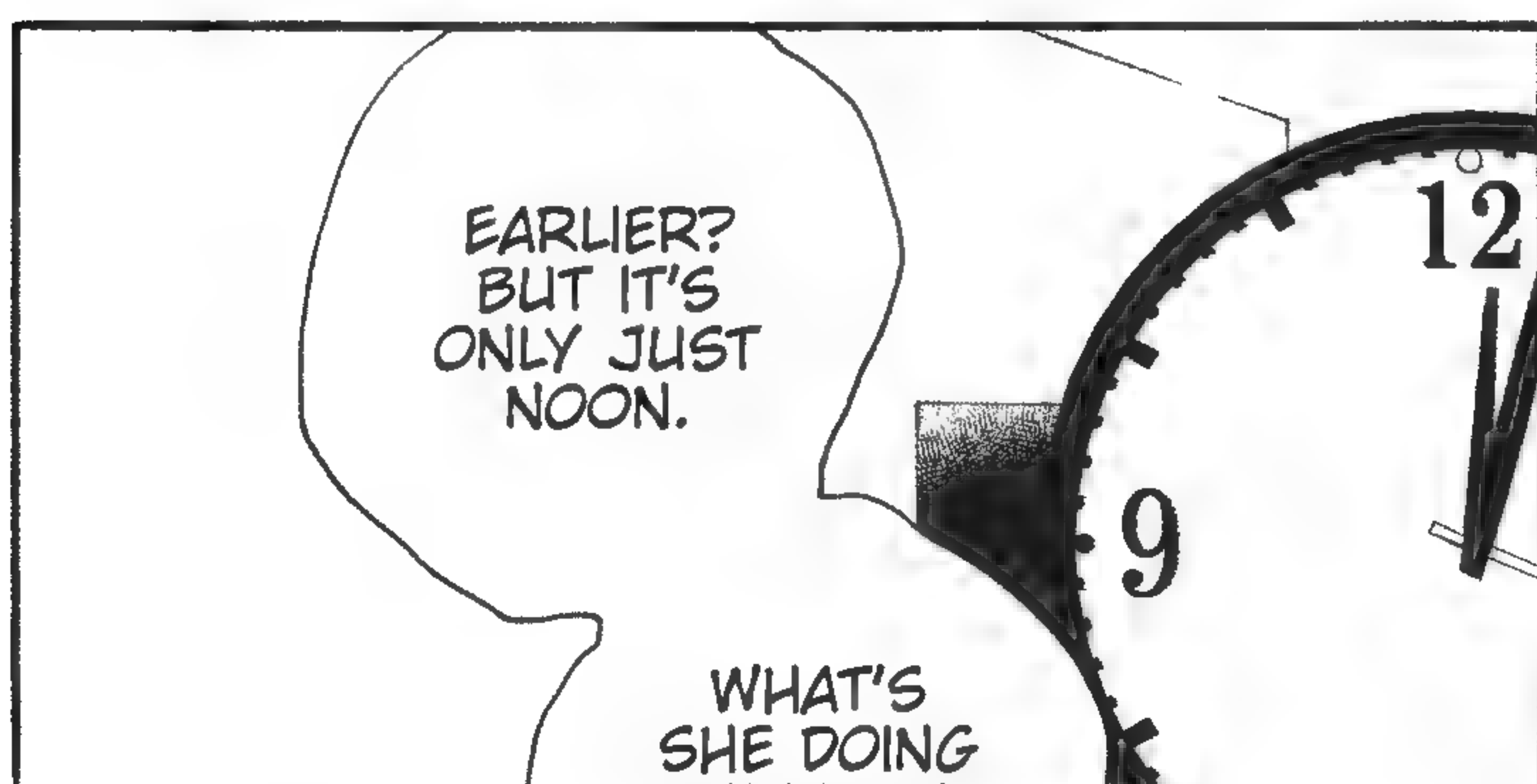
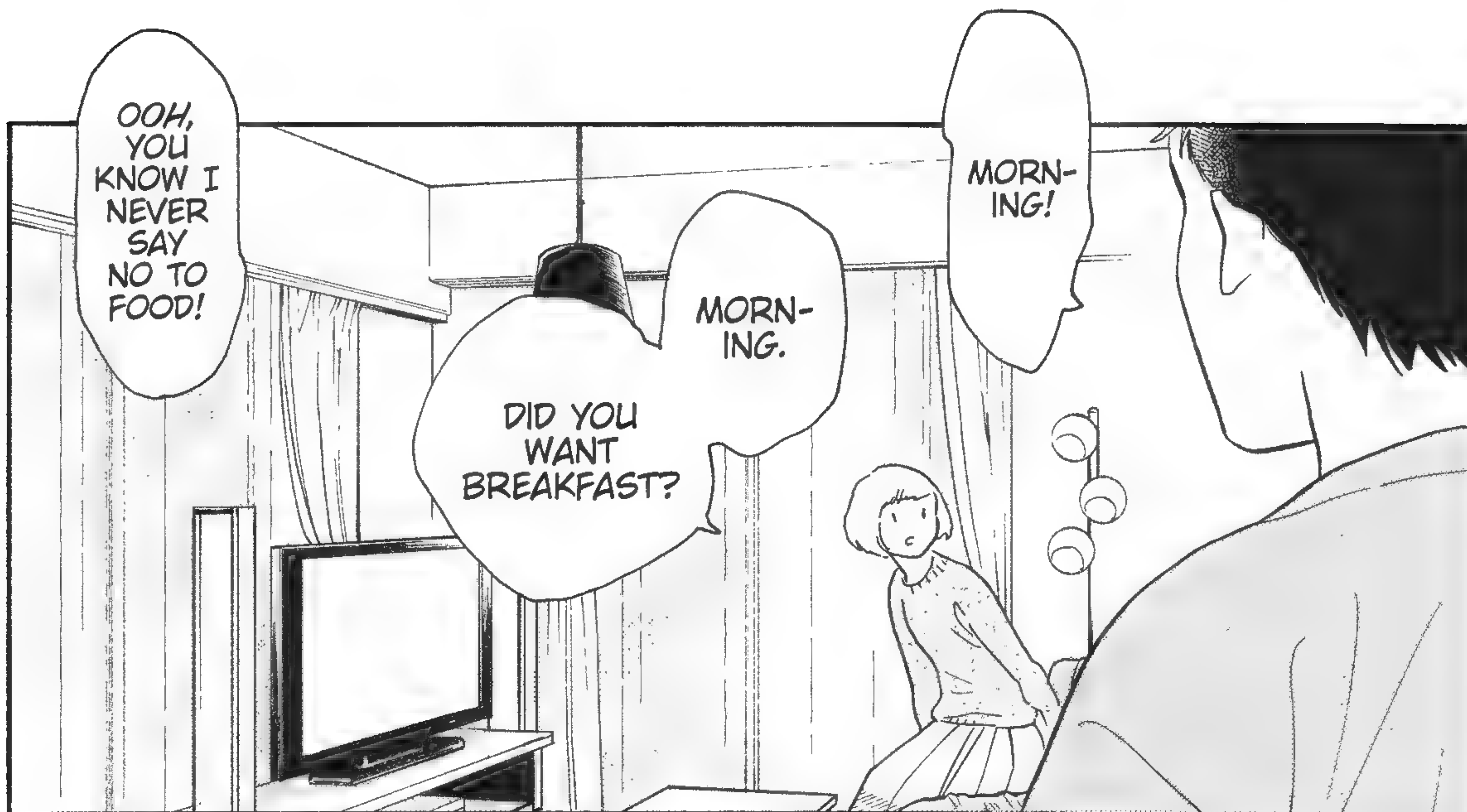




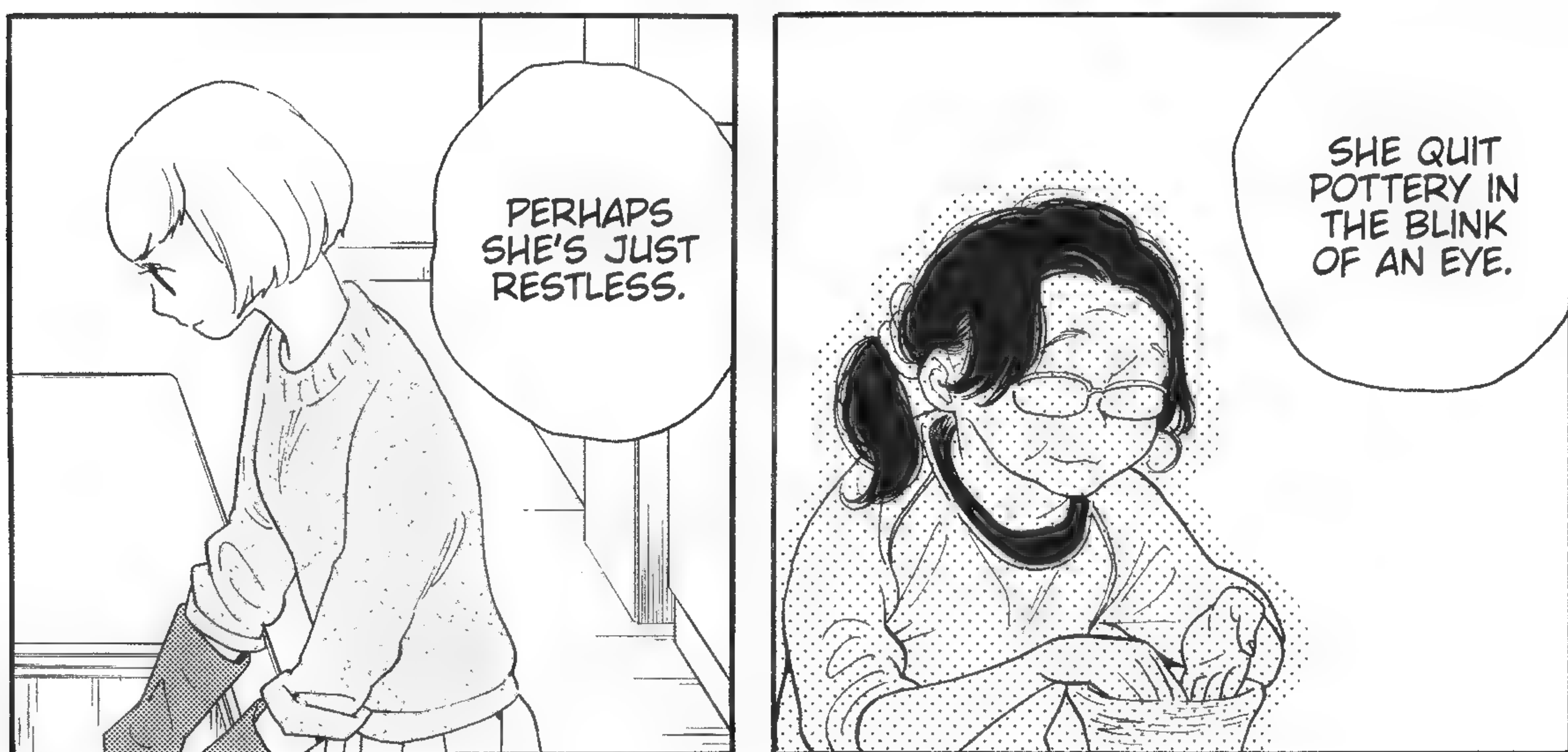
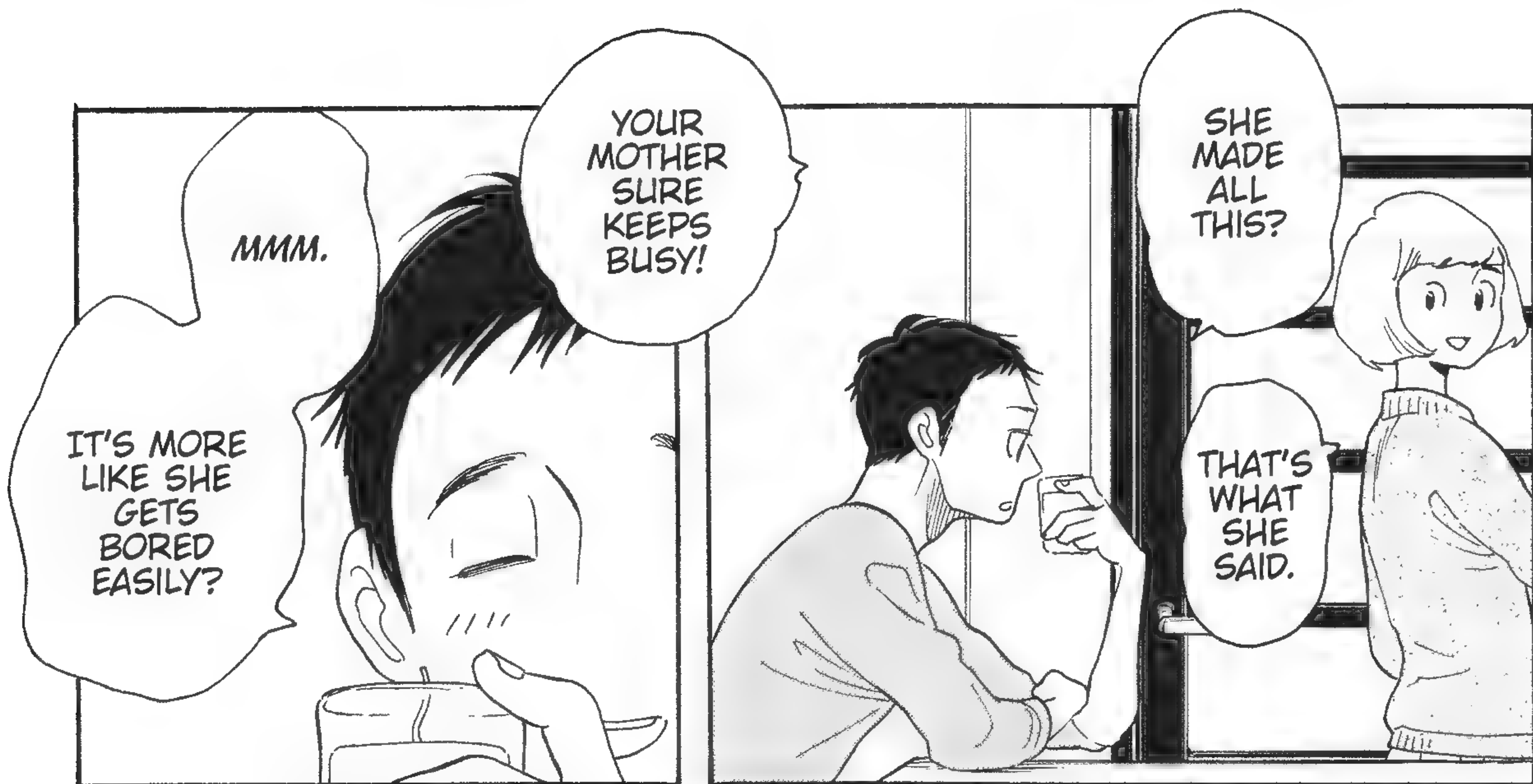




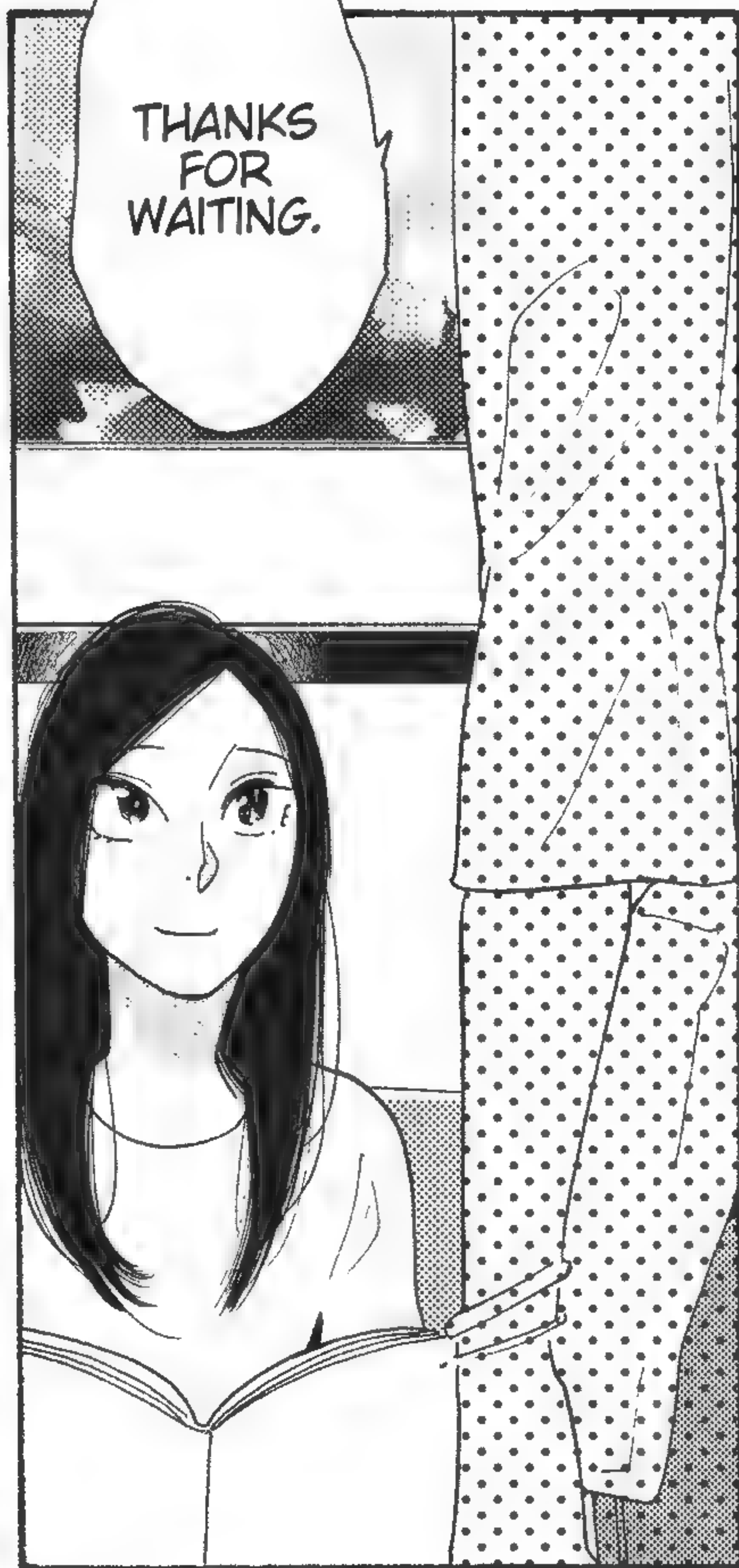




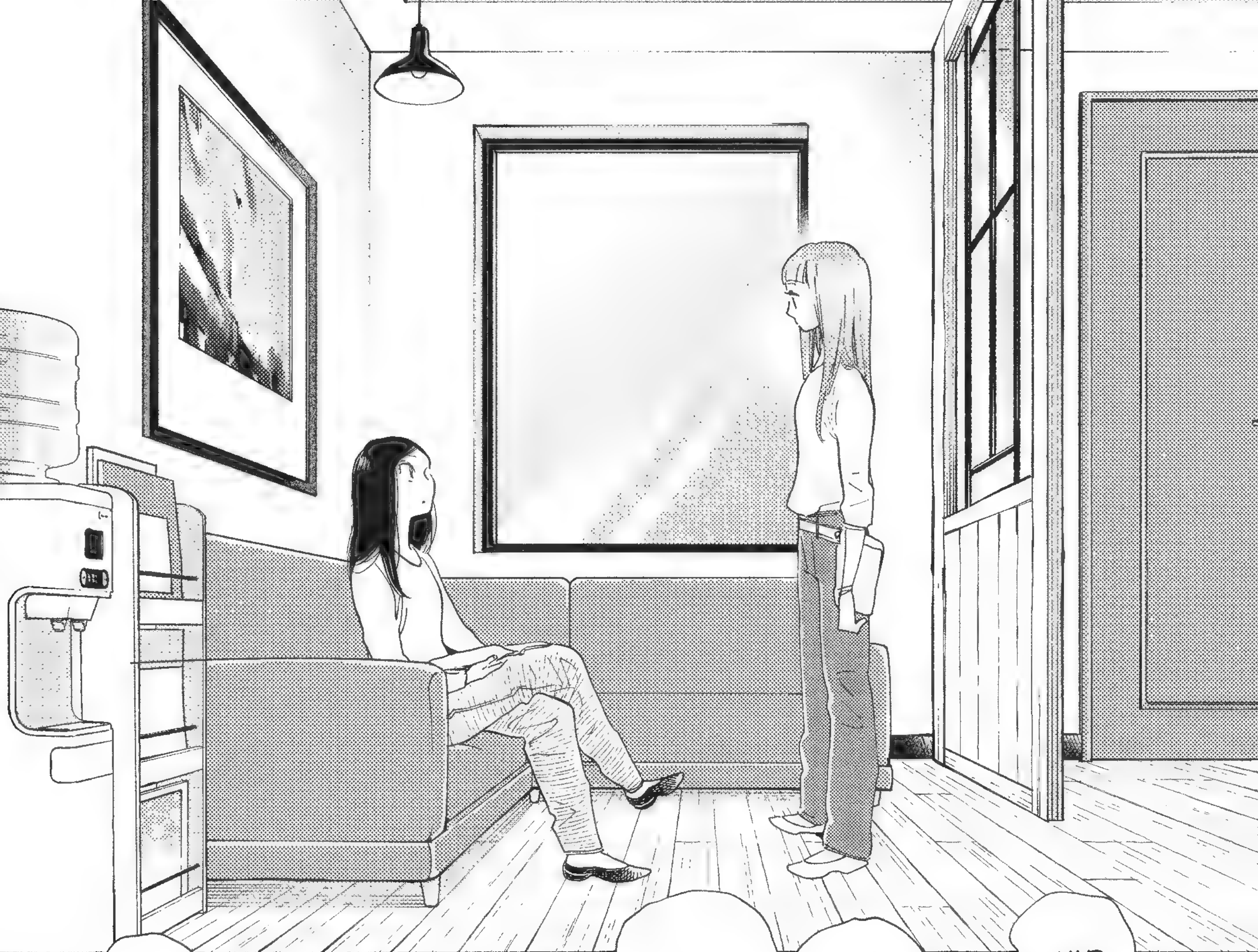




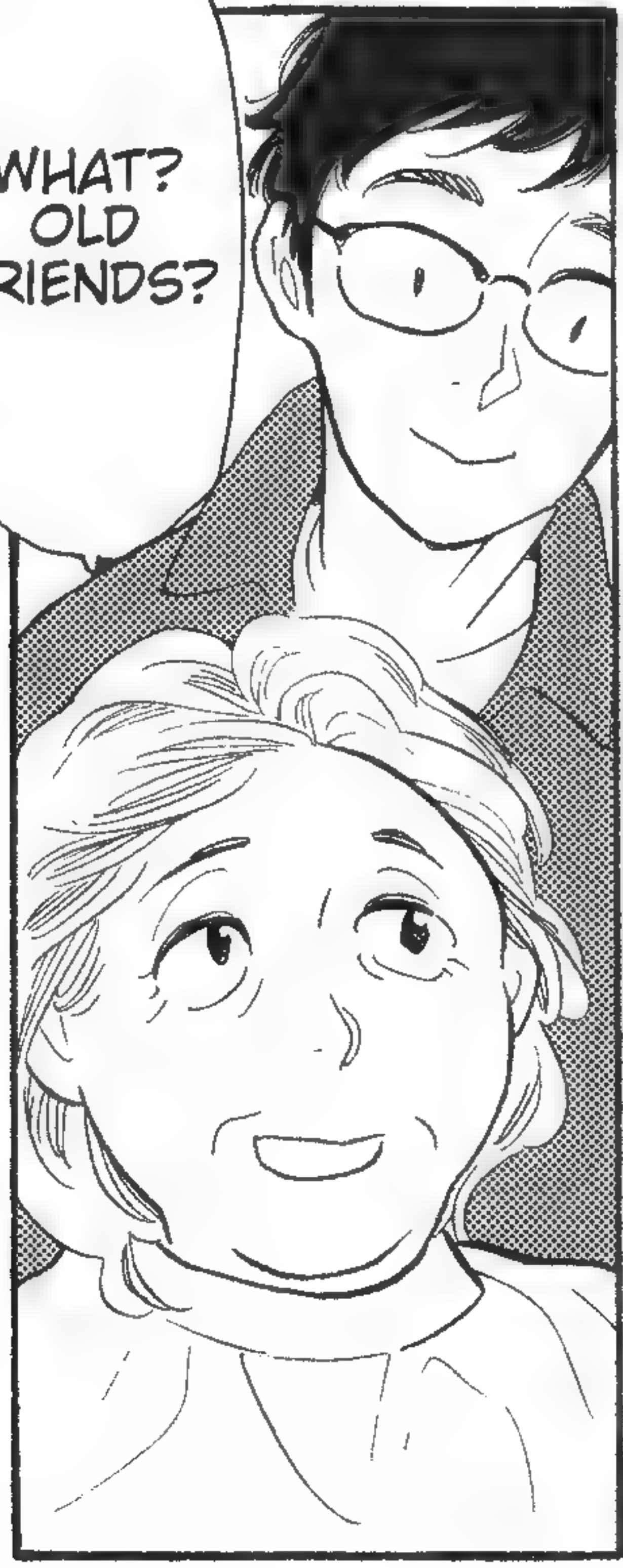








WHAT?  
OLD  
FRIENDS?



WARN  
ME NEXT  
TIME!



SURPRISED,  
ARE WE?

WHAT?

UHH?

WHY?

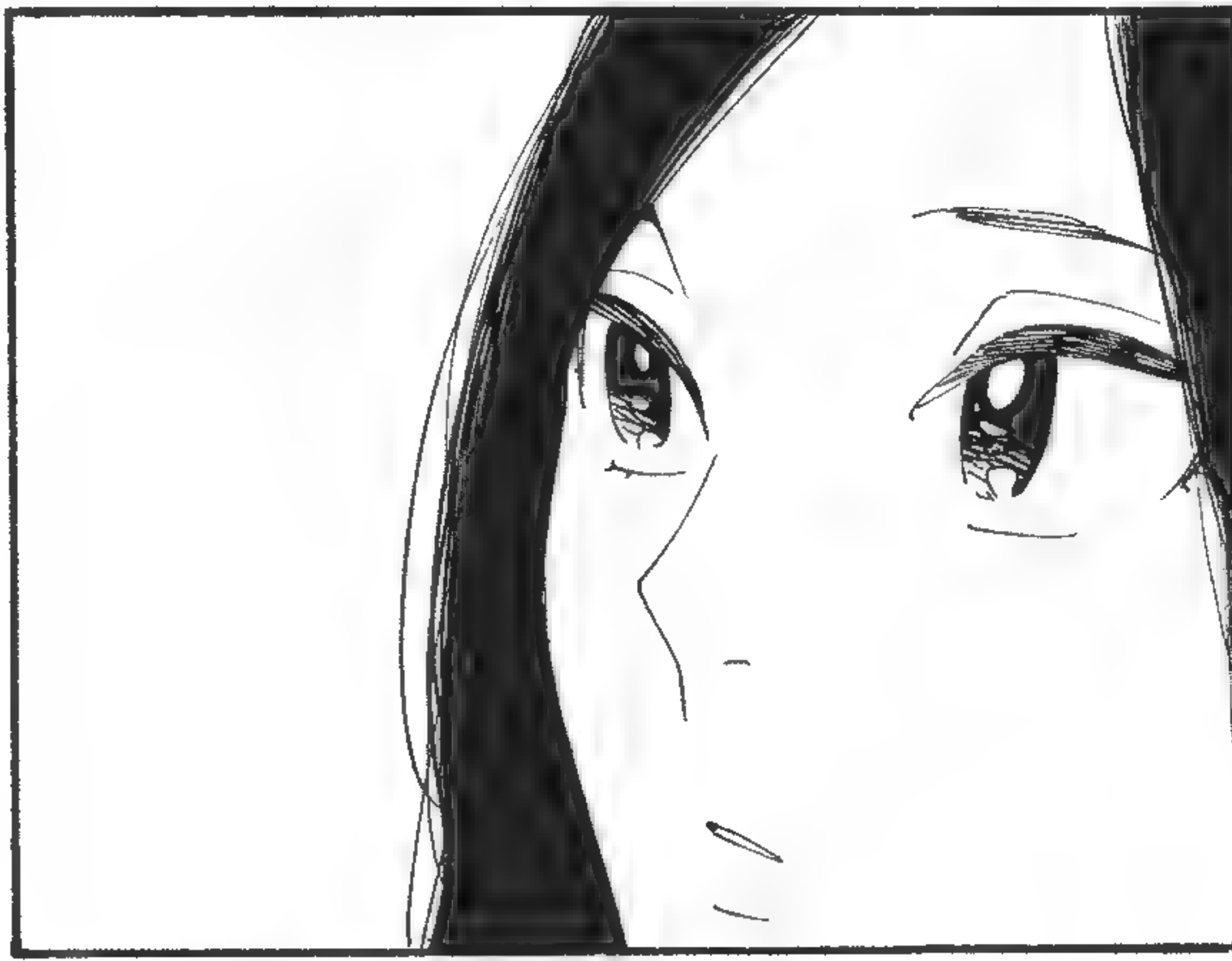
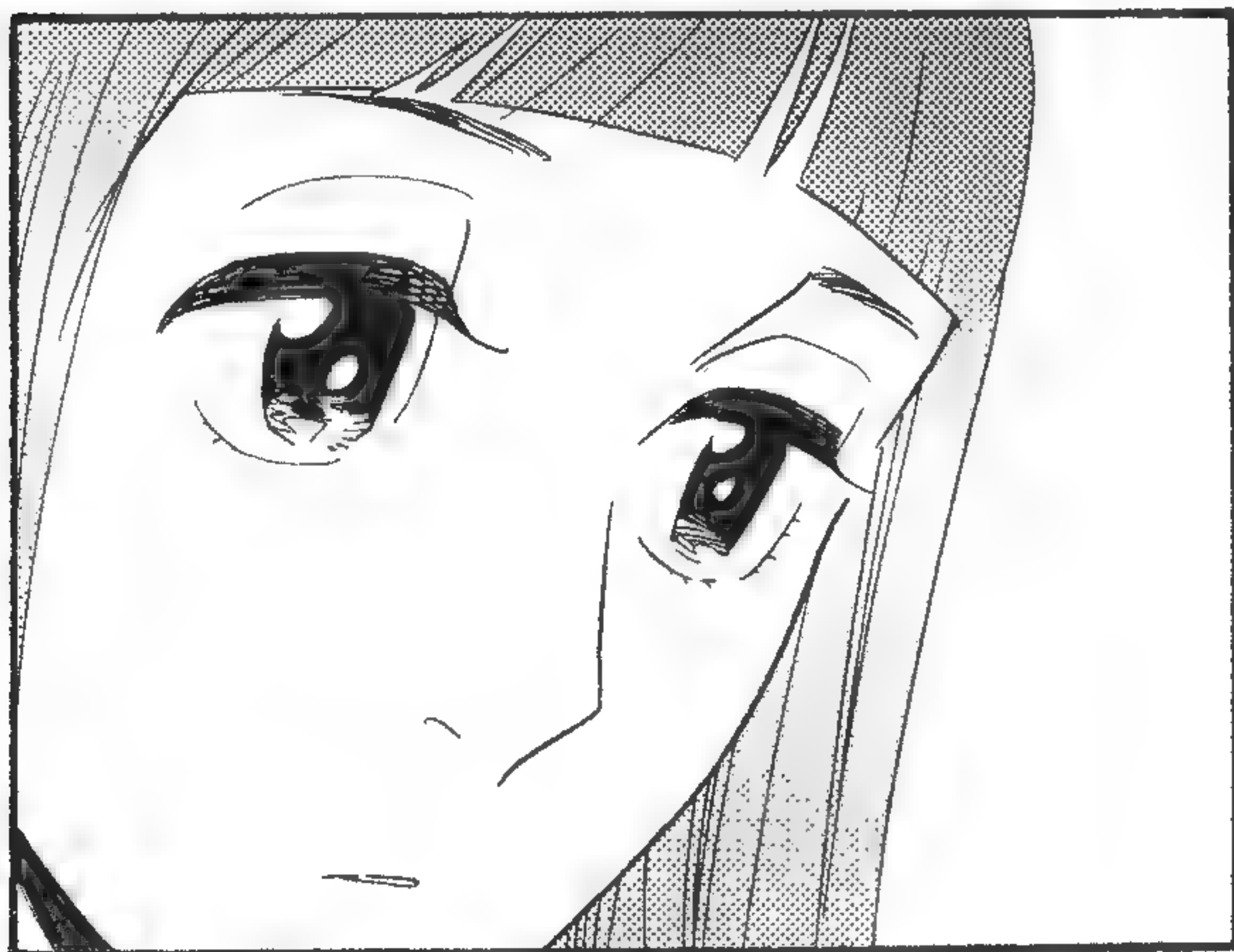
WHY'RE  
YOU  
HERE?

IT WAS  
MORE  
FUN NOT  
TO.

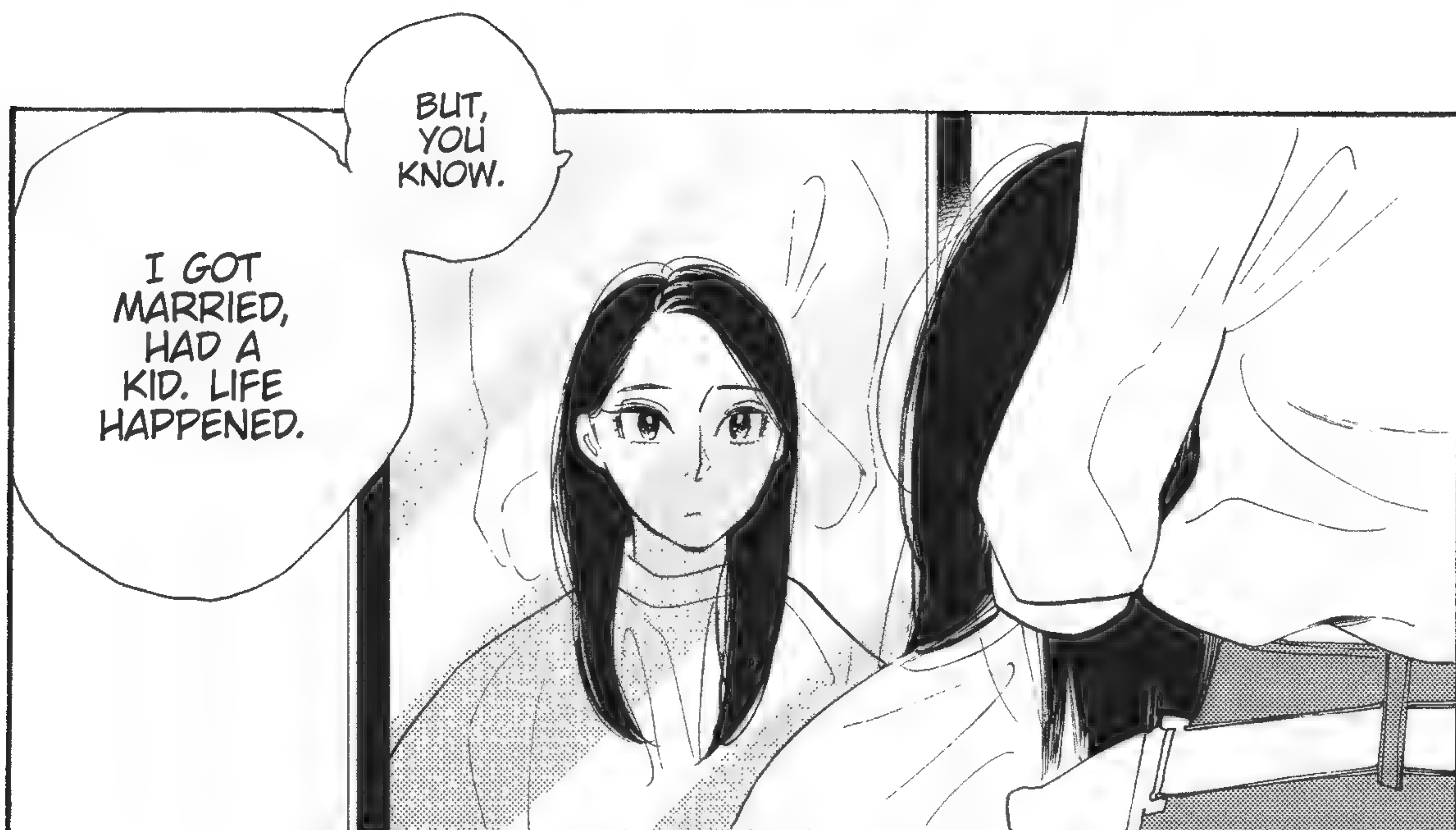
YEAH,  
I CAME  
BACK.



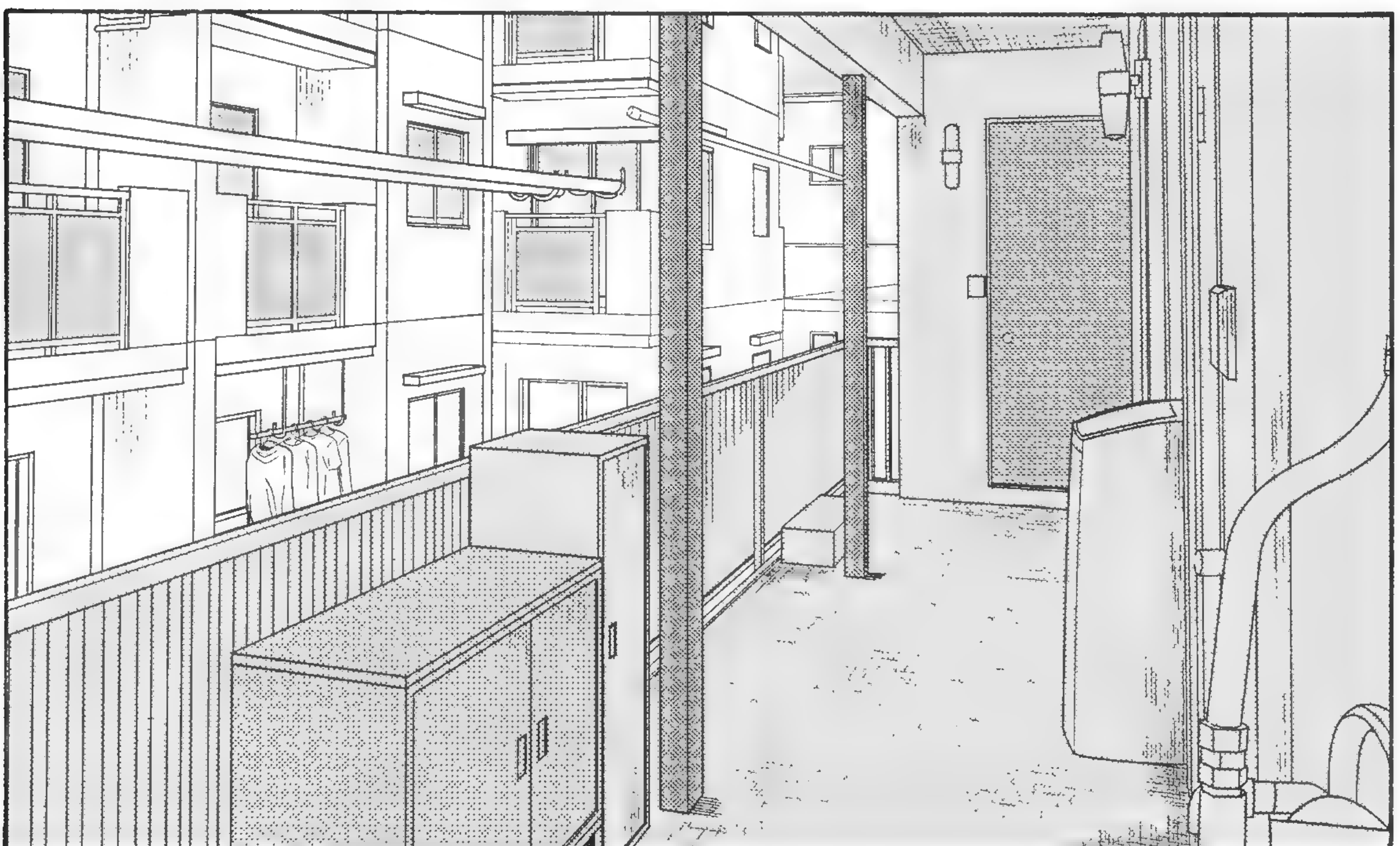
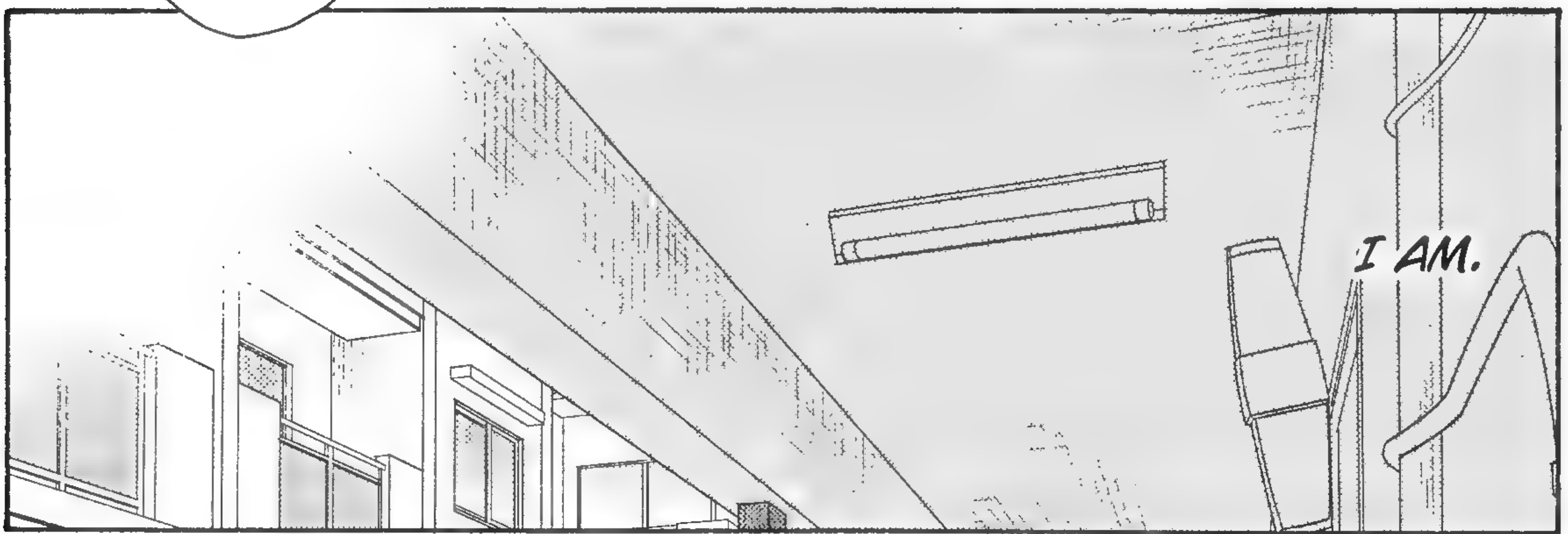
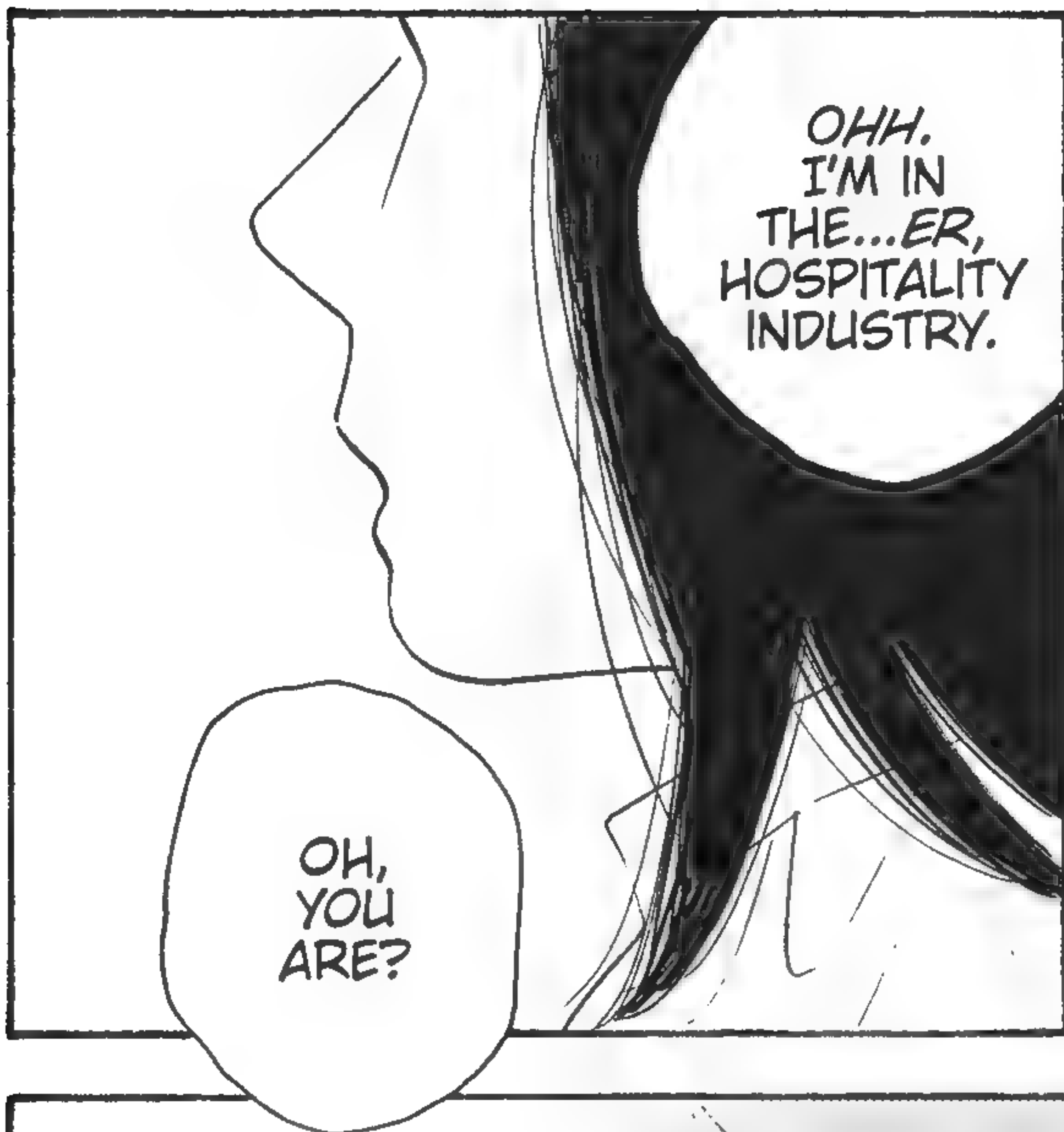














MY EX-  
ROOMMATE...

AND  
EX-GIRLFRIEND,  
YUKAKO-CHAN.



I LOVED  
HER SO  
DAMN  
MUCH.  
I MISS  
HER.

Huh?

But  
why?!

S-  
sure.

Can I  
crash at  
your place  
for a  
while?

Heeey!

And  
they were  
like, sure we'll  
help, but only  
if you come  
back home!

I fell  
behind  
on my  
rent.

Sooo, I  
called my  
parents.

Yeah,  
they  
would  
say  
that.

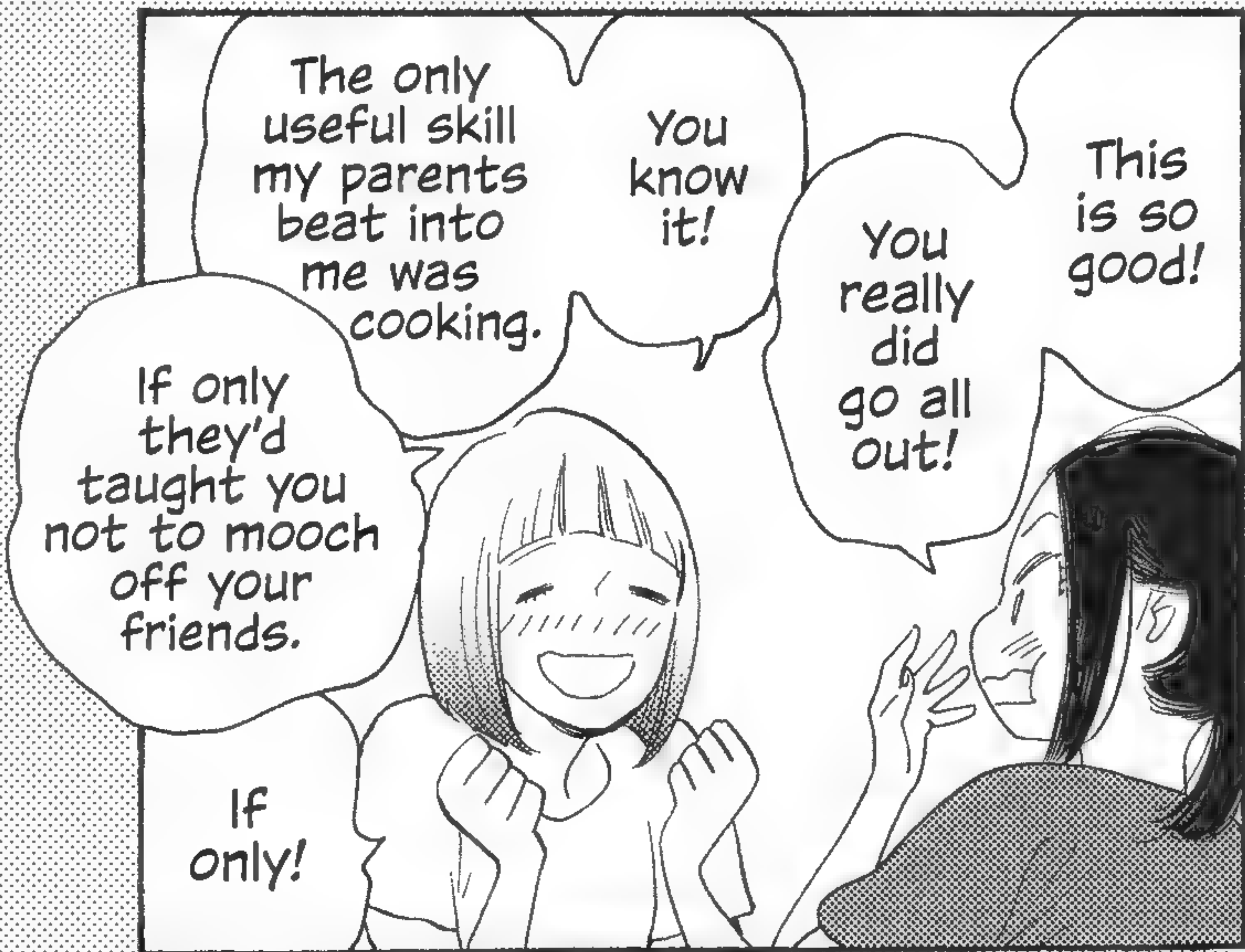
cut room  
bianca





You....!

Sooo I kinda lied and told them I was moving in with a friend.



The only useful skill my parents beat into me was cooking.

You know it!

You really did go all out!

This is so good!

If only they'd taught you not to mooch off your friends.

If only!



I know, right?!

WATCHING ALL THOSE COOKING SHOWS PAID OFF!

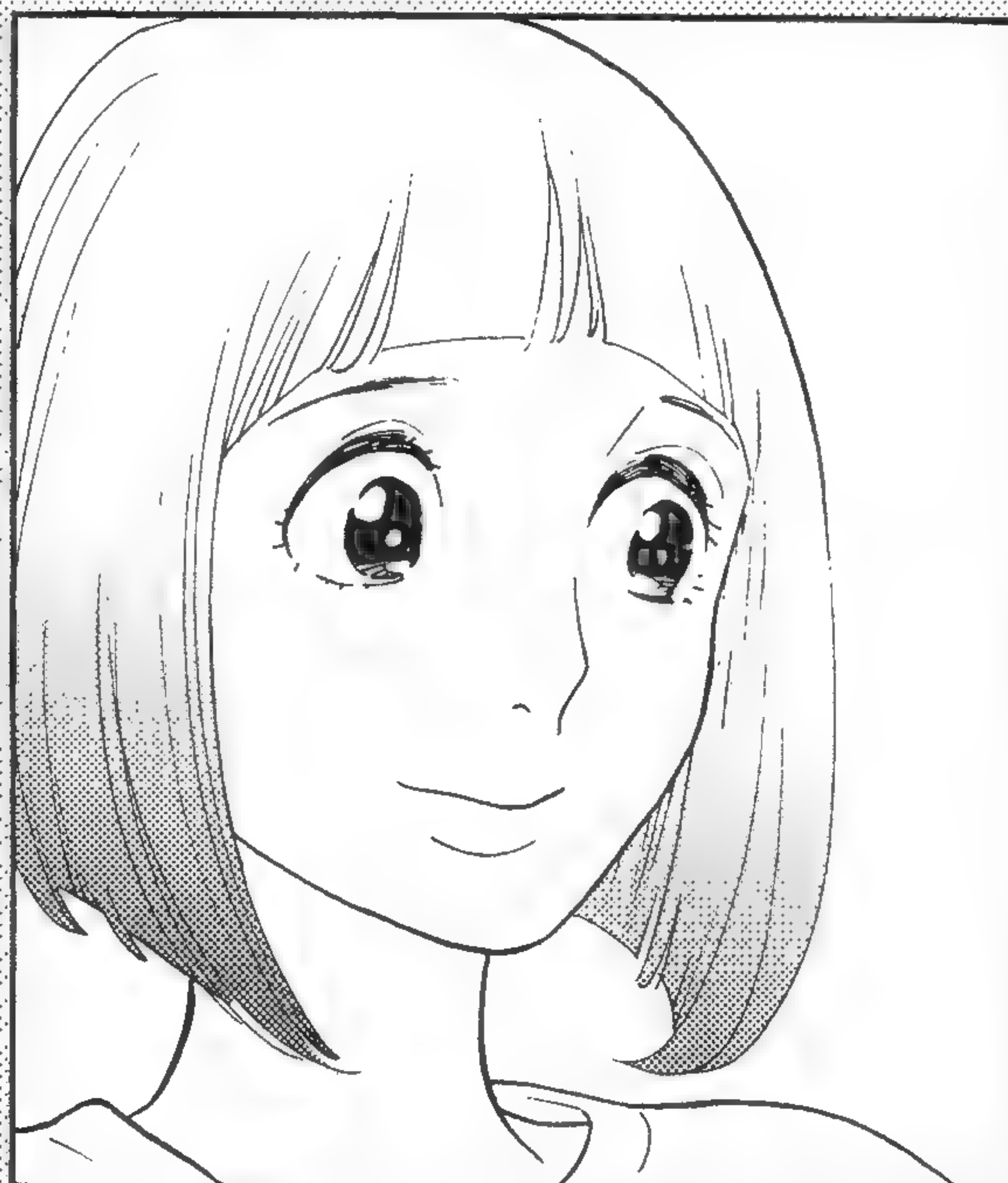
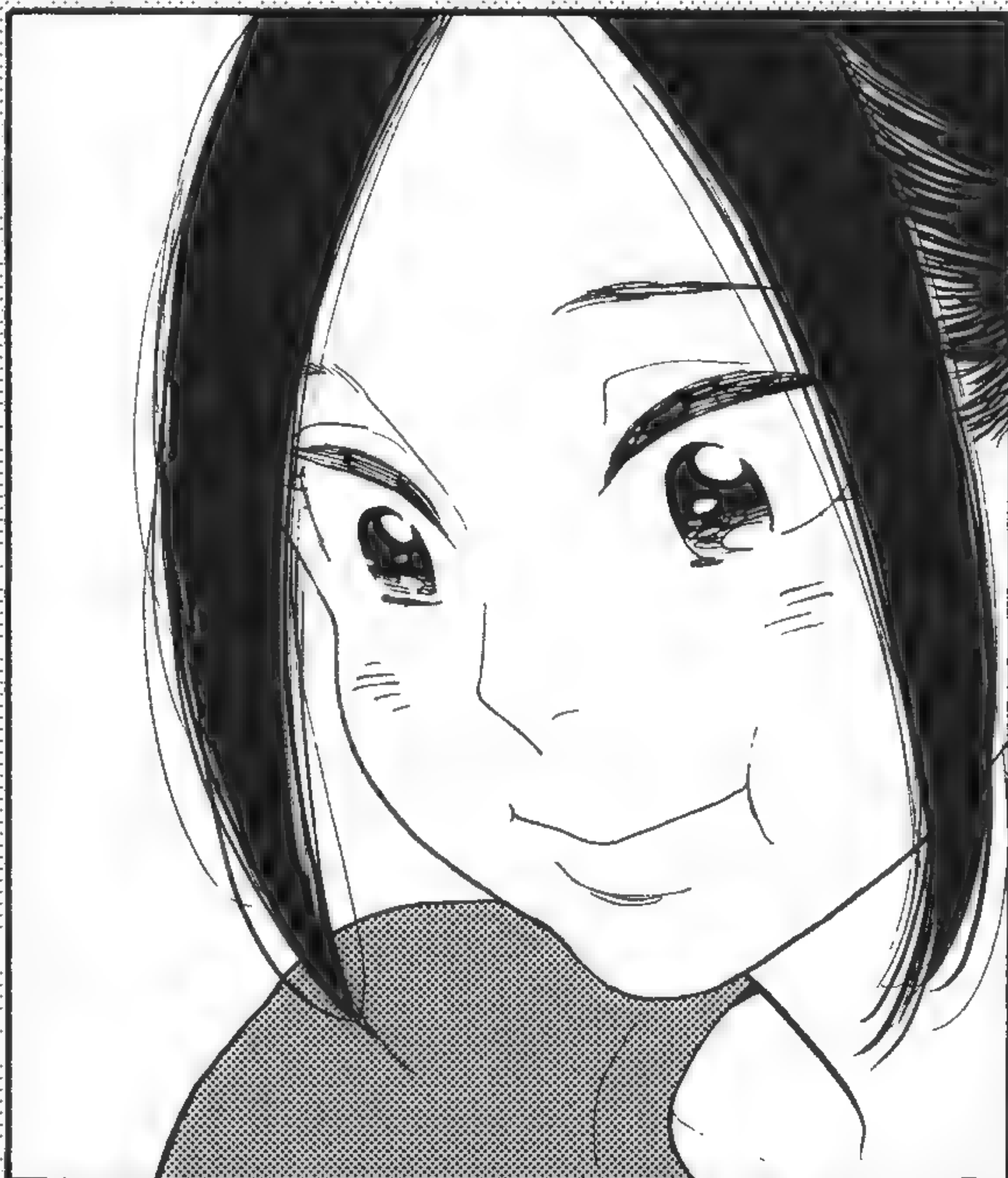
Whoa. What a spread!



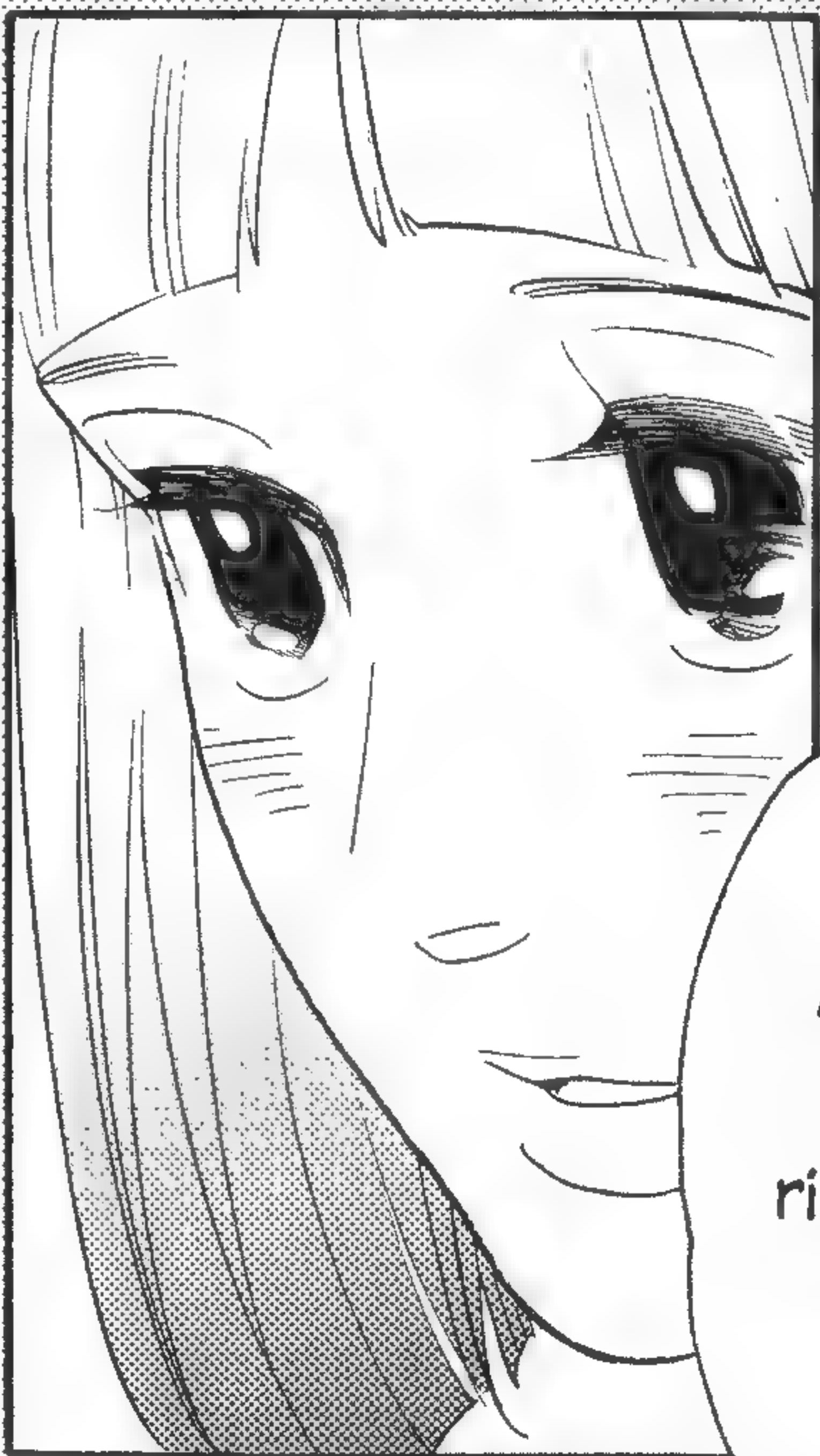
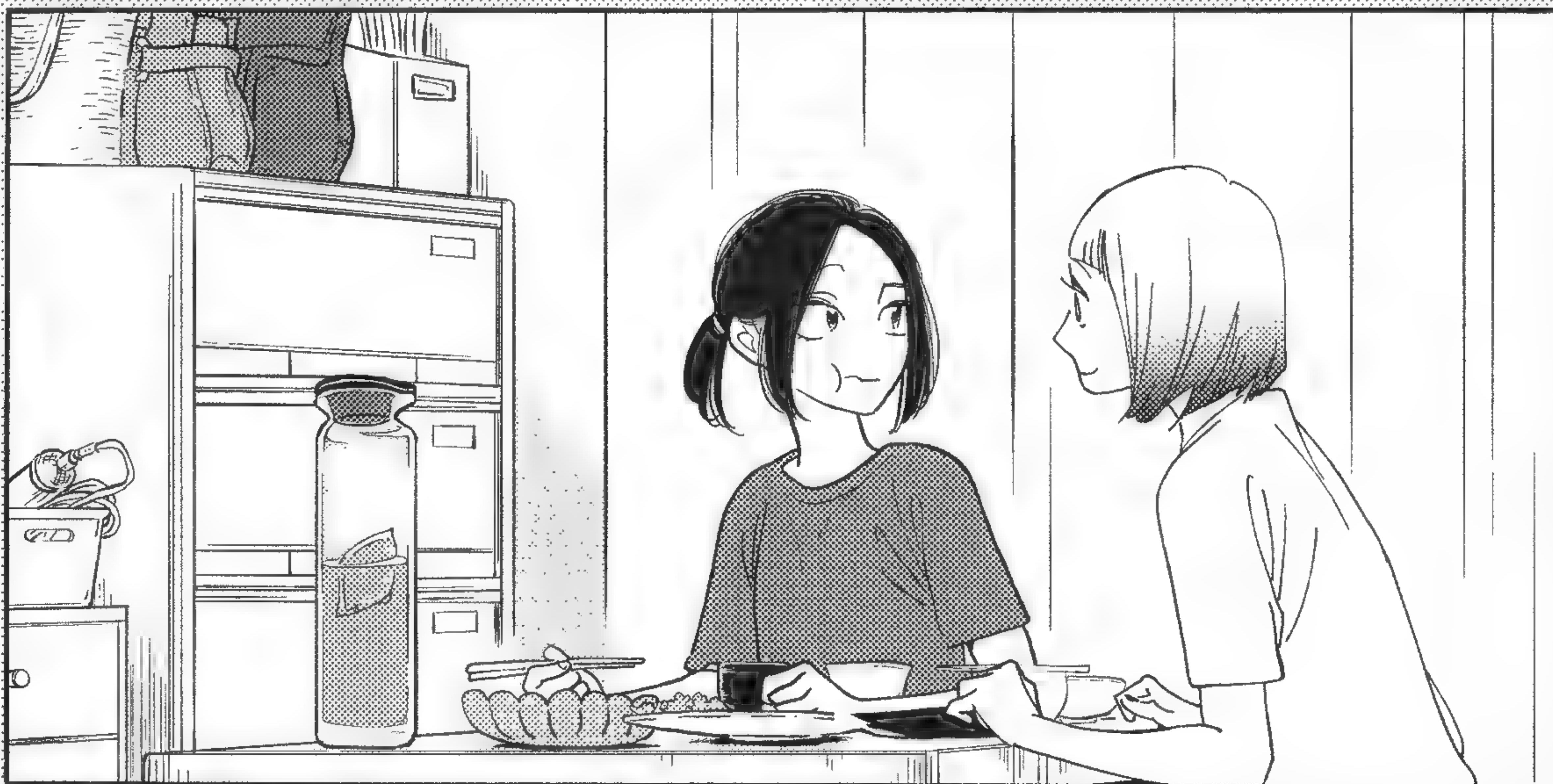
Hey, teach me how to cook!

Sure.







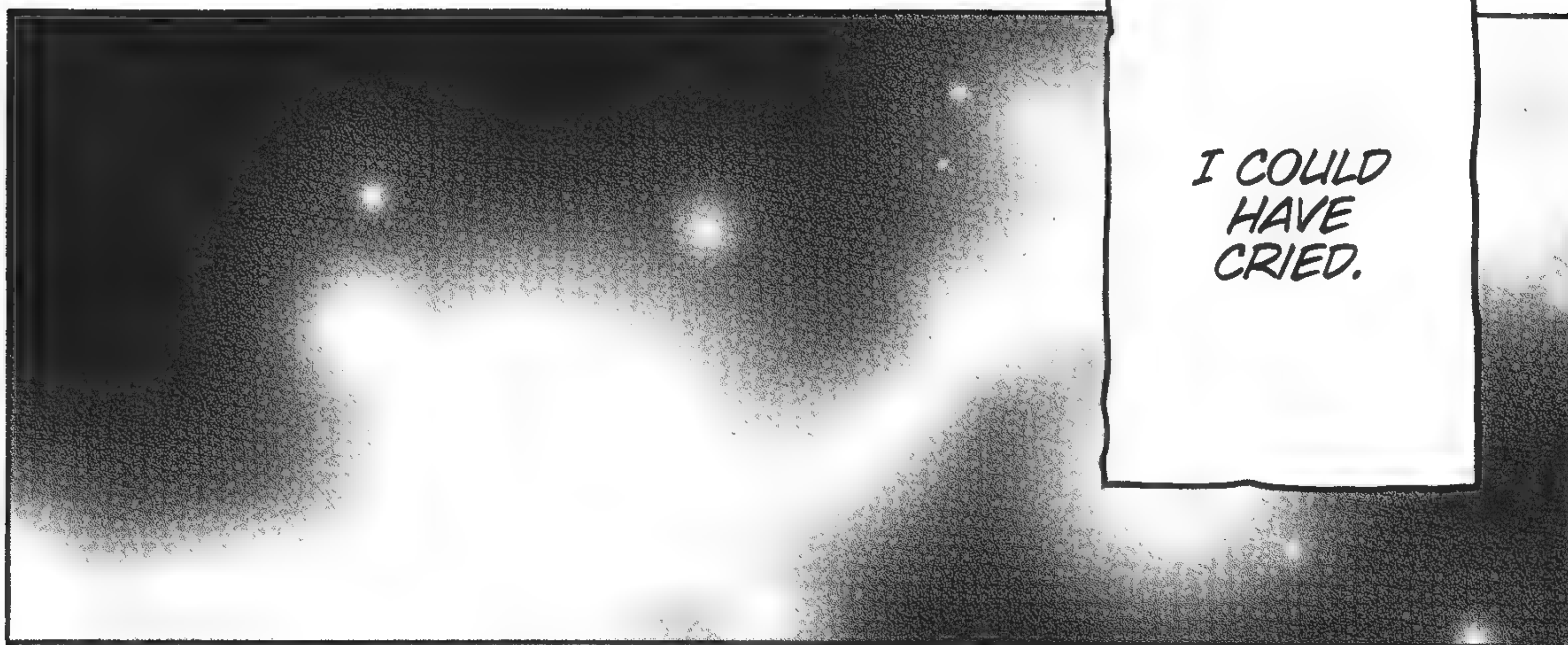


Are you  
seeing  
anyone  
right now,  
Akari-  
chan?

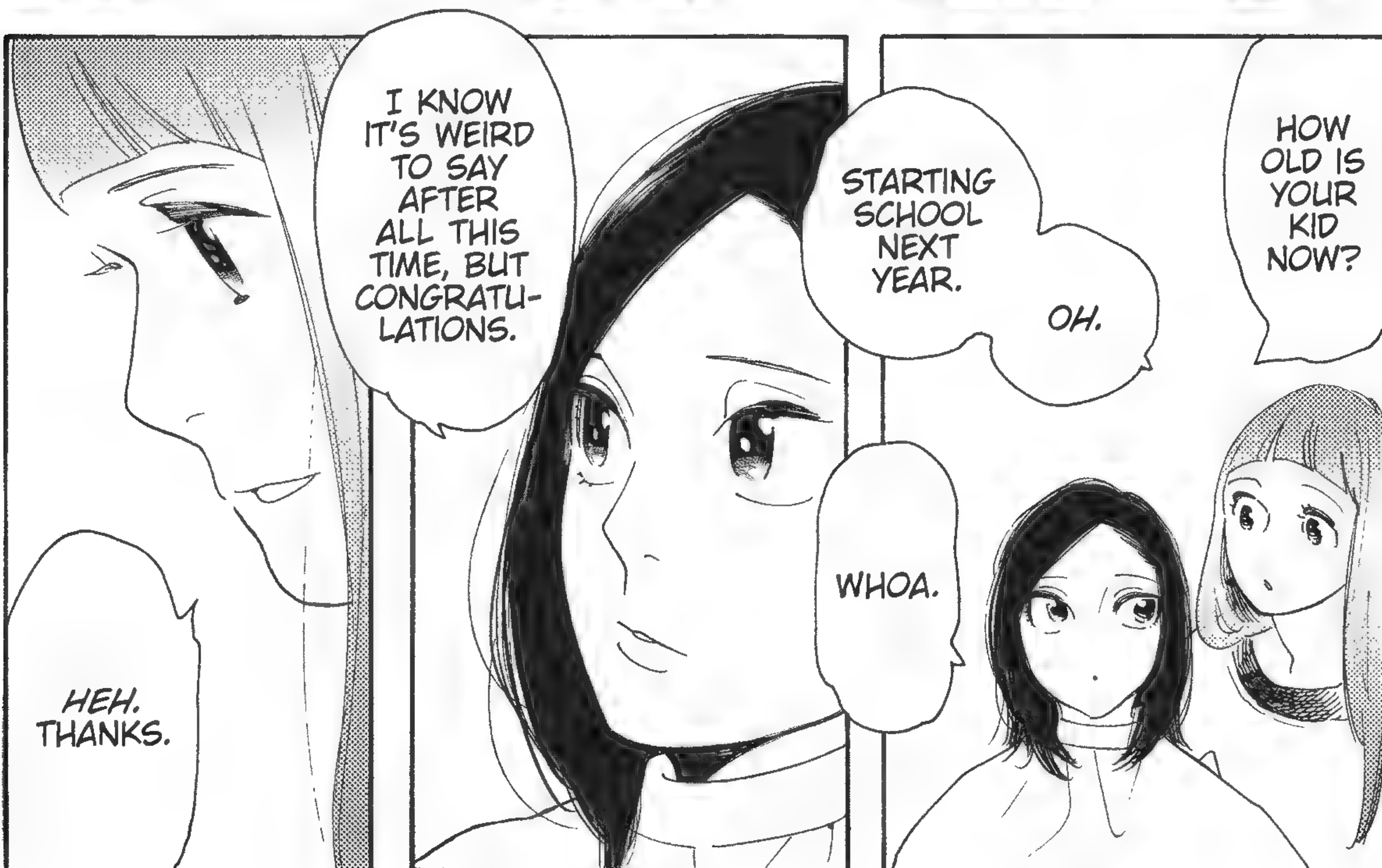


I'm going  
to be sooo  
embarrassed  
if I read  
the room  
wrong...





I COULD  
HAVE  
CRIED.



HEH.  
THANKS.

I KNOW  
IT'S WEIRD  
TO SAY  
AFTER  
ALL THIS  
TIME, BUT  
CONGRATU-  
LATIONS.

STARTING  
SCHOOL  
NEXT  
YEAR.

OH.

HOW  
OLD IS  
YOUR  
KID  
NOW?

WHOA.

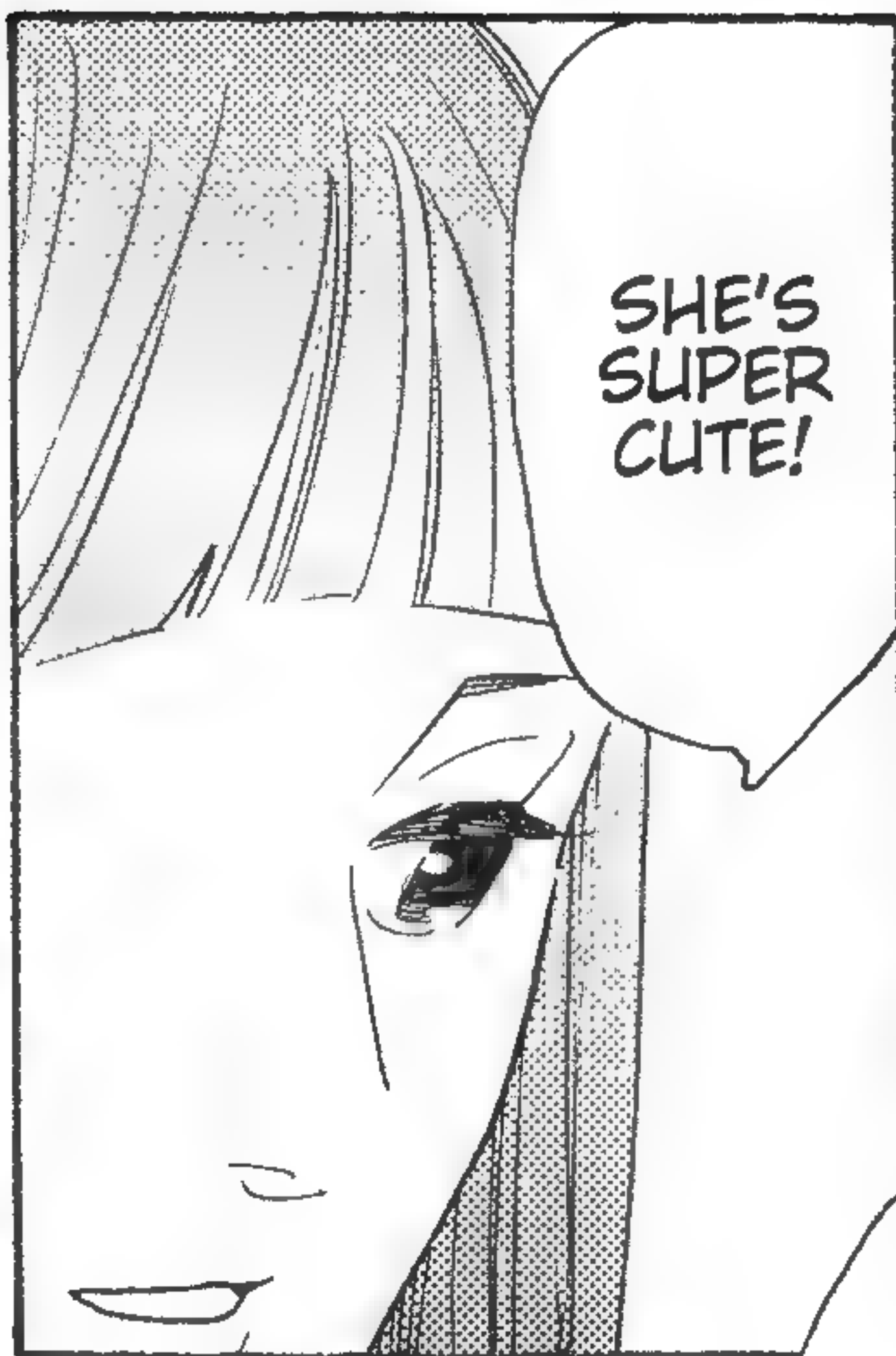








I  
BET.



SHE'S  
SUPER  
CUTE!



SO, MY  
KID'S A  
GIRL.

UH-  
HUH.

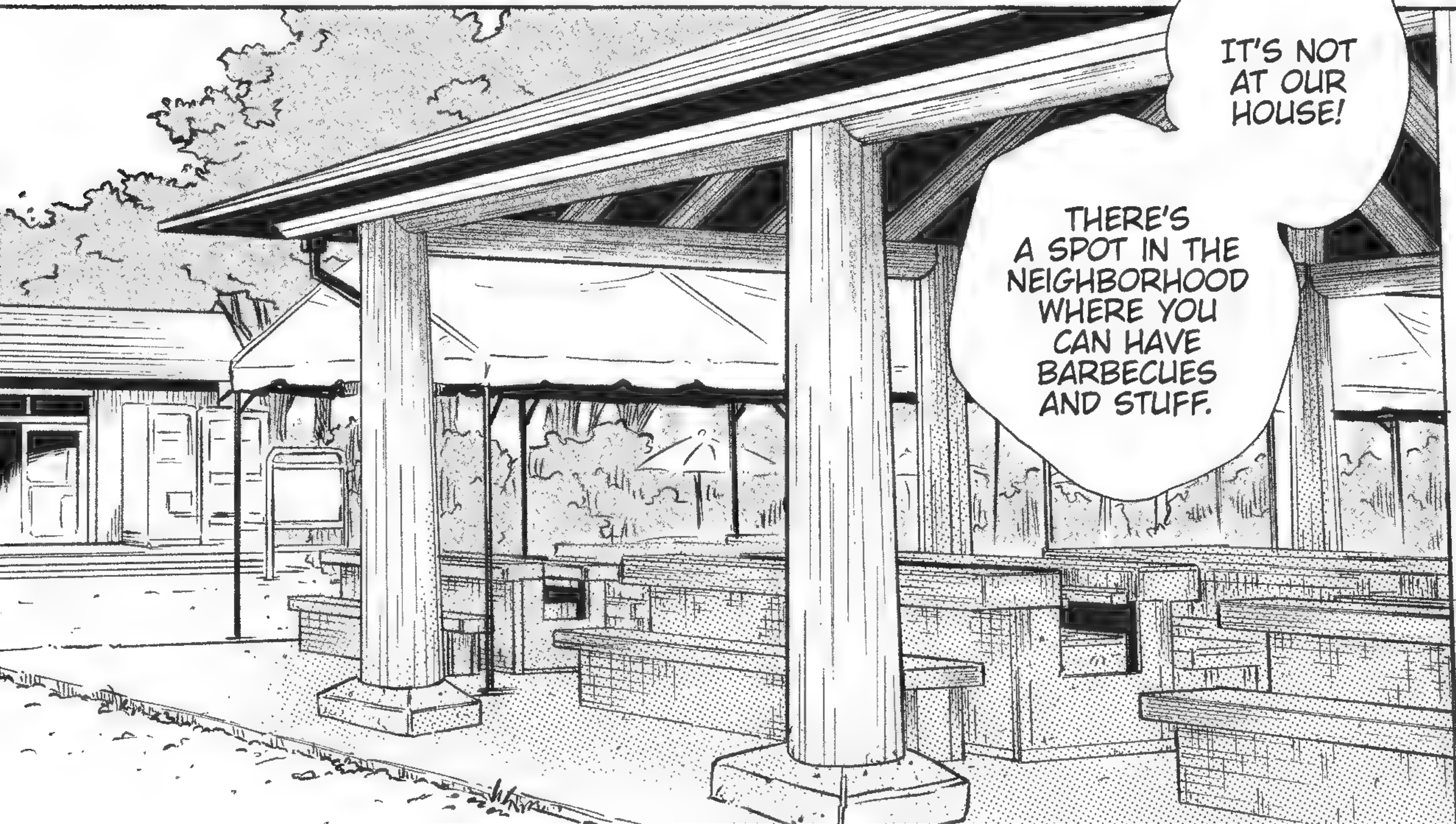


UH, CAN  
YOU JUST  
INVITE  
PEOPLE TO  
SOMEONE  
ELSE'S--



OH!  
YUKAKO'S  
HAVING A  
BARBECUE  
SOON.

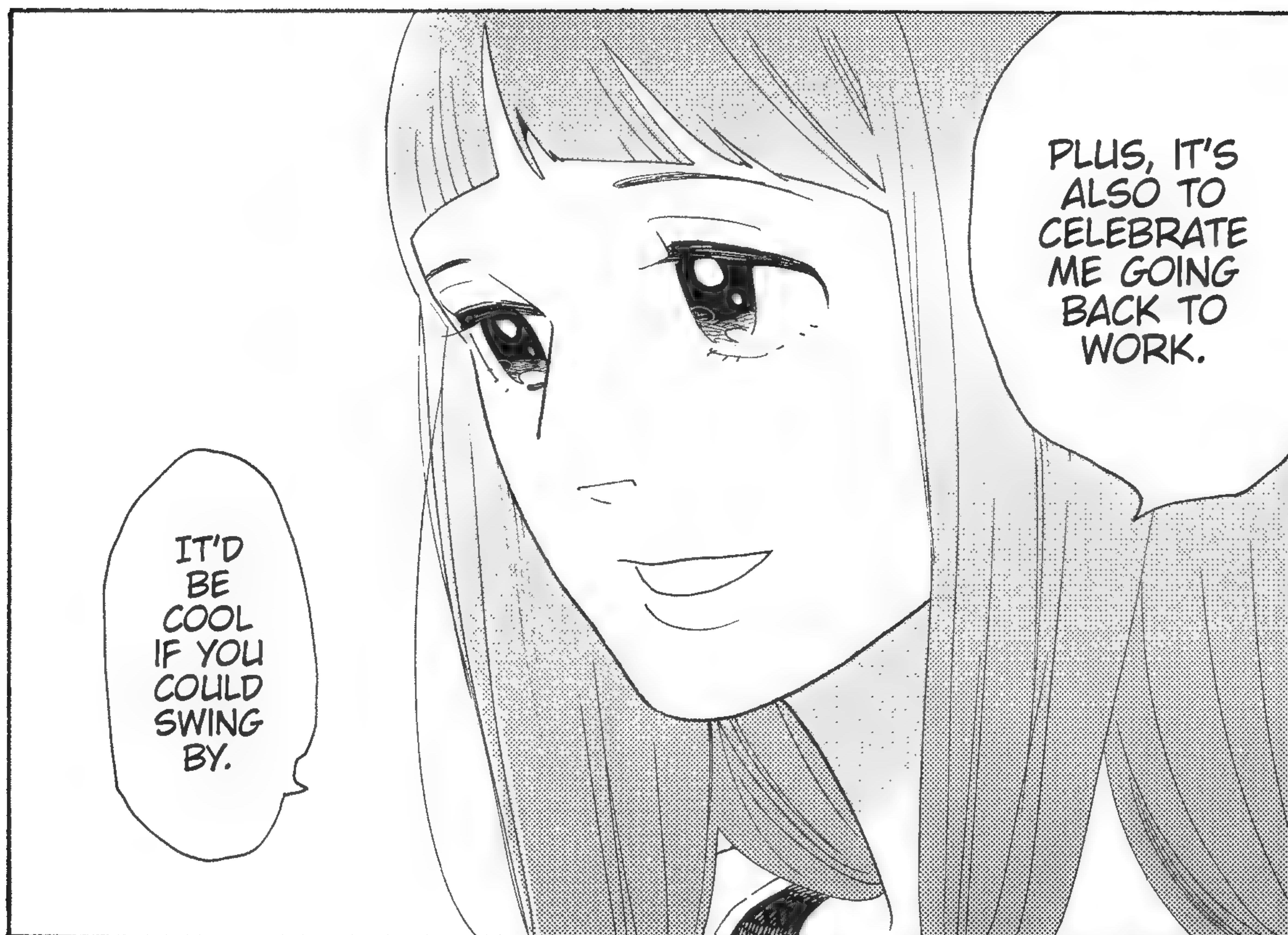
YOU  
SHOULD  
COME, TOO,  
AKARI-SAN.



IT'S NOT  
AT OUR  
HOUSE!

THERE'S  
A SPOT IN THE  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
WHERE YOU  
CAN HAVE  
BARBECUES  
AND STUFF.







BUT AT  
THE SAME  
TIME, I  
KIND OF  
WANTED  
TO GO.

MAYBE  
BECAUSE  
THAT HURT  
IS ALL IN  
THE PAST.

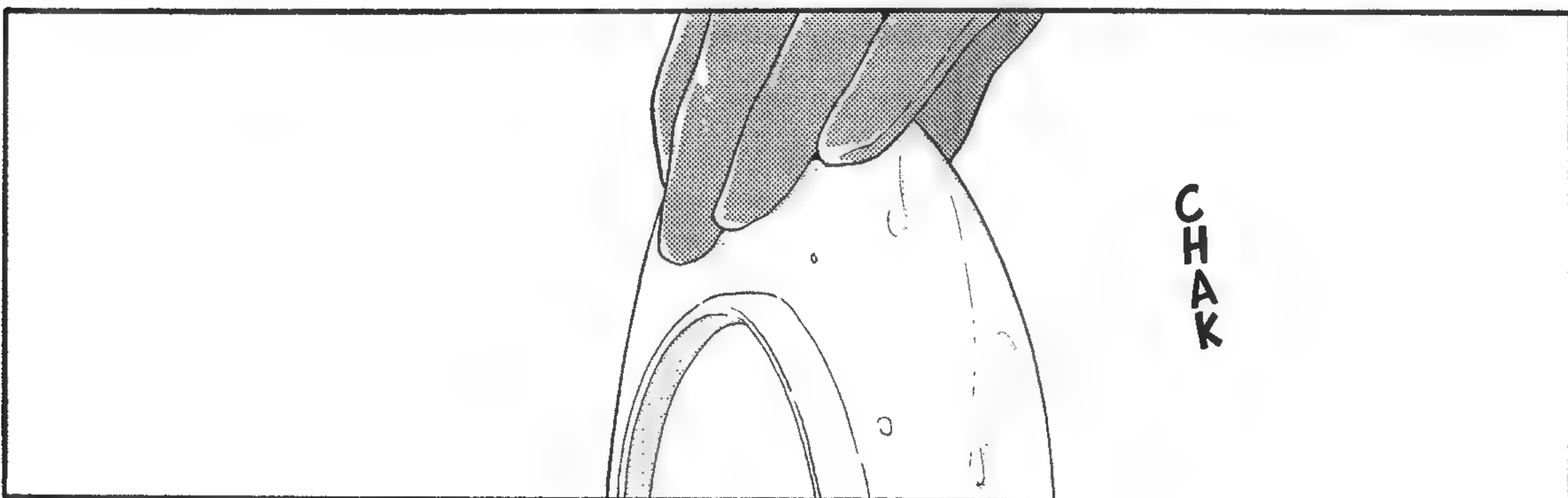
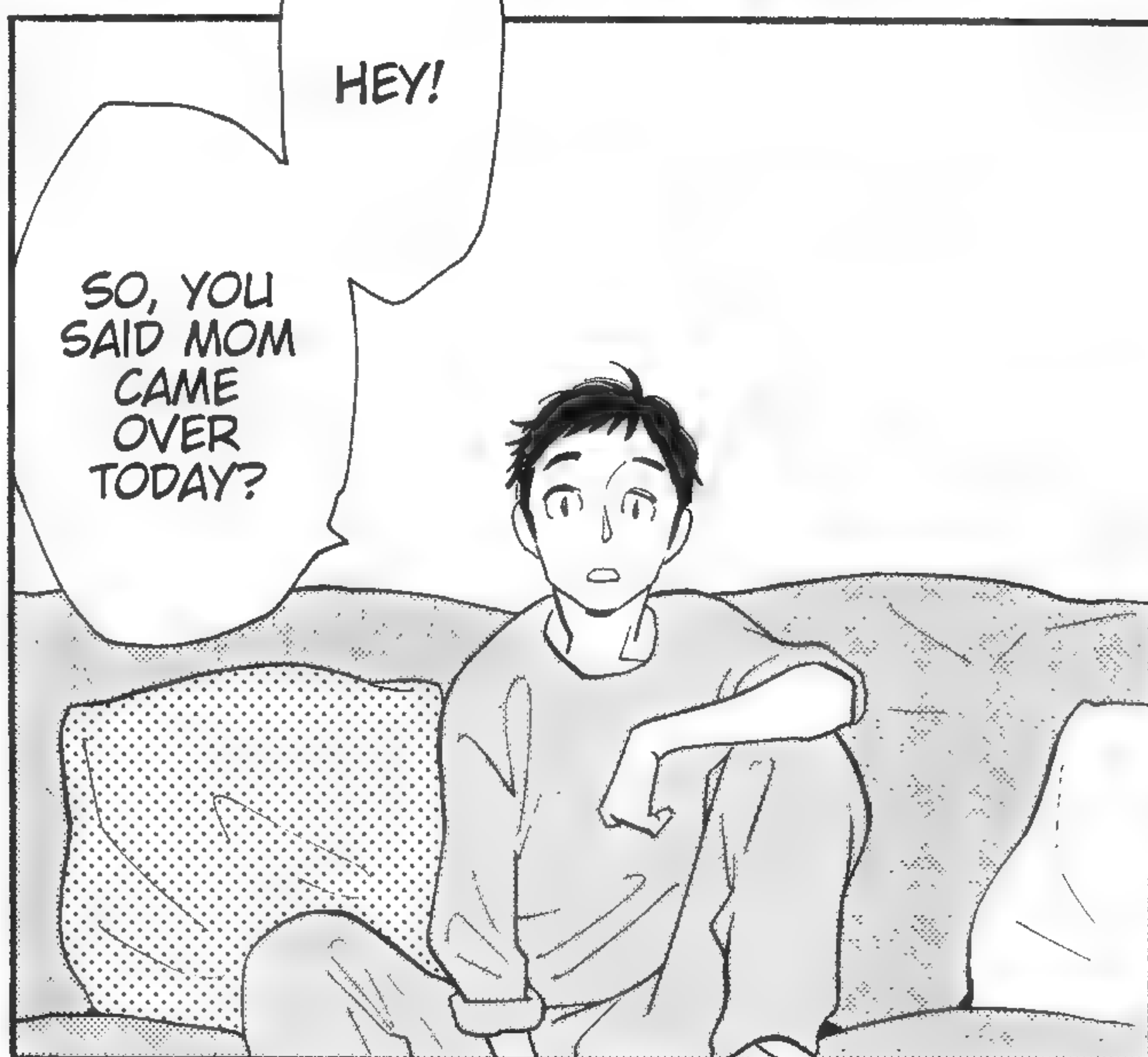
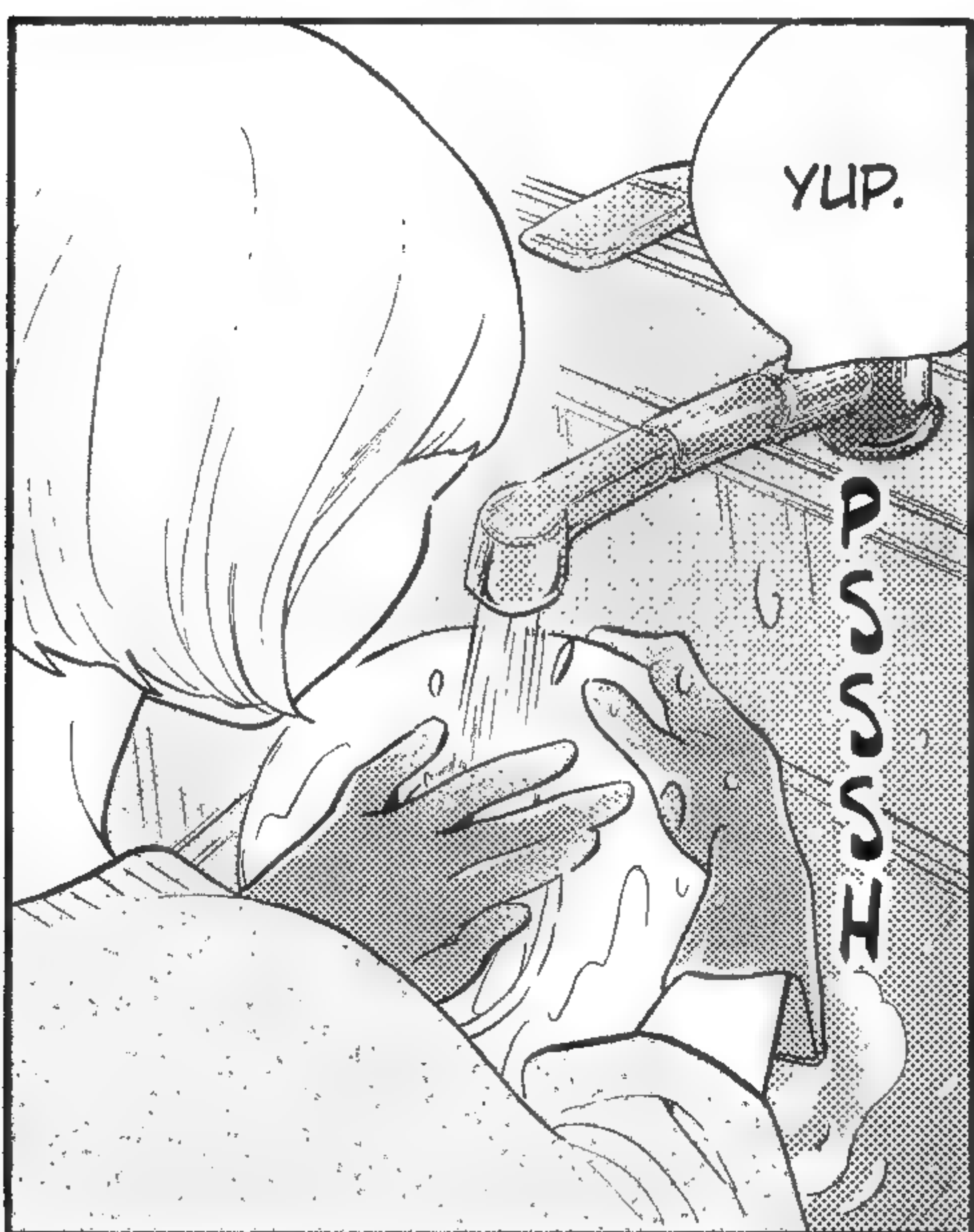
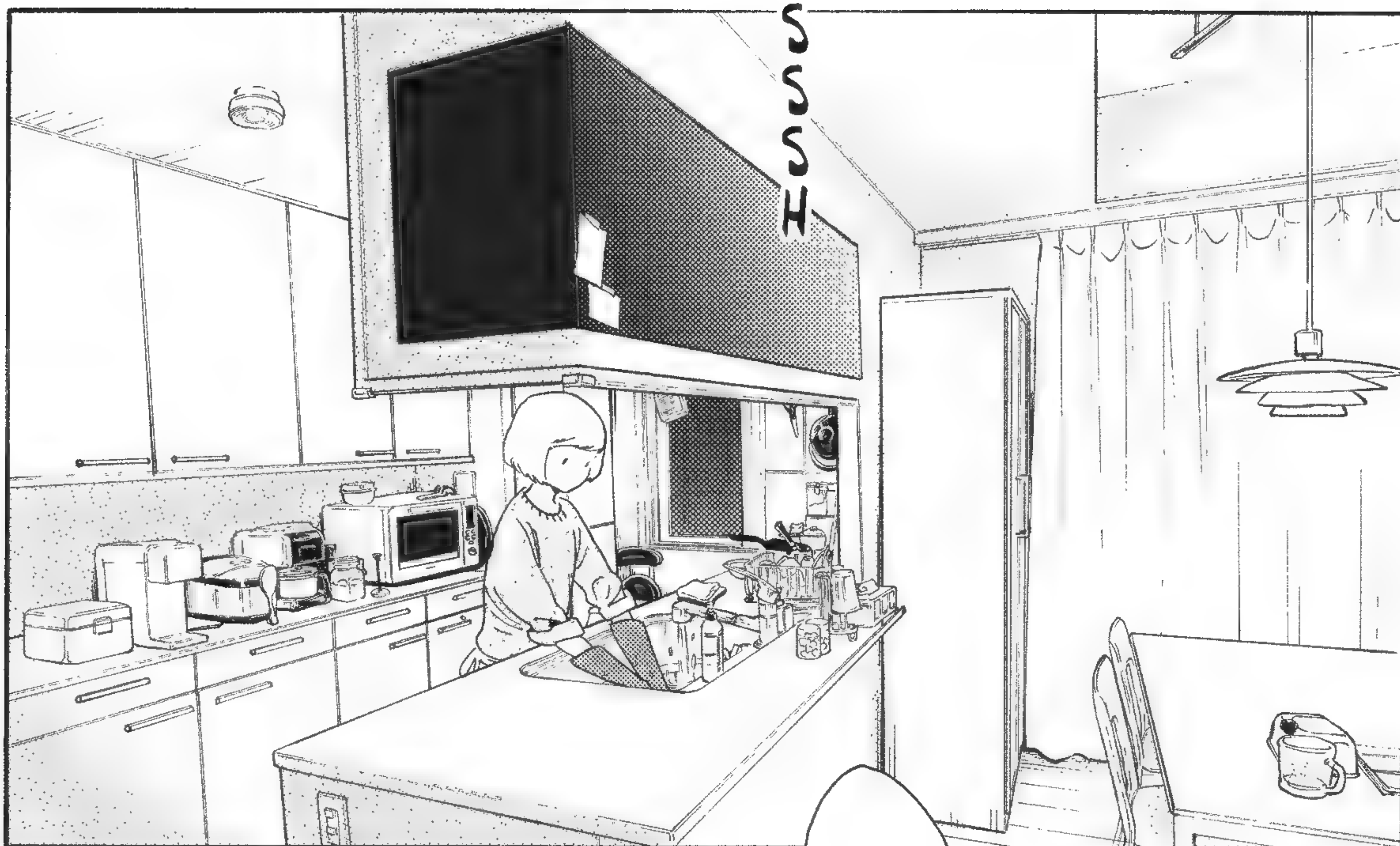
I WONDER  
WHY THAT  
IS.

WAIT.  
IT'S IN  
THE PAST,  
BUT...

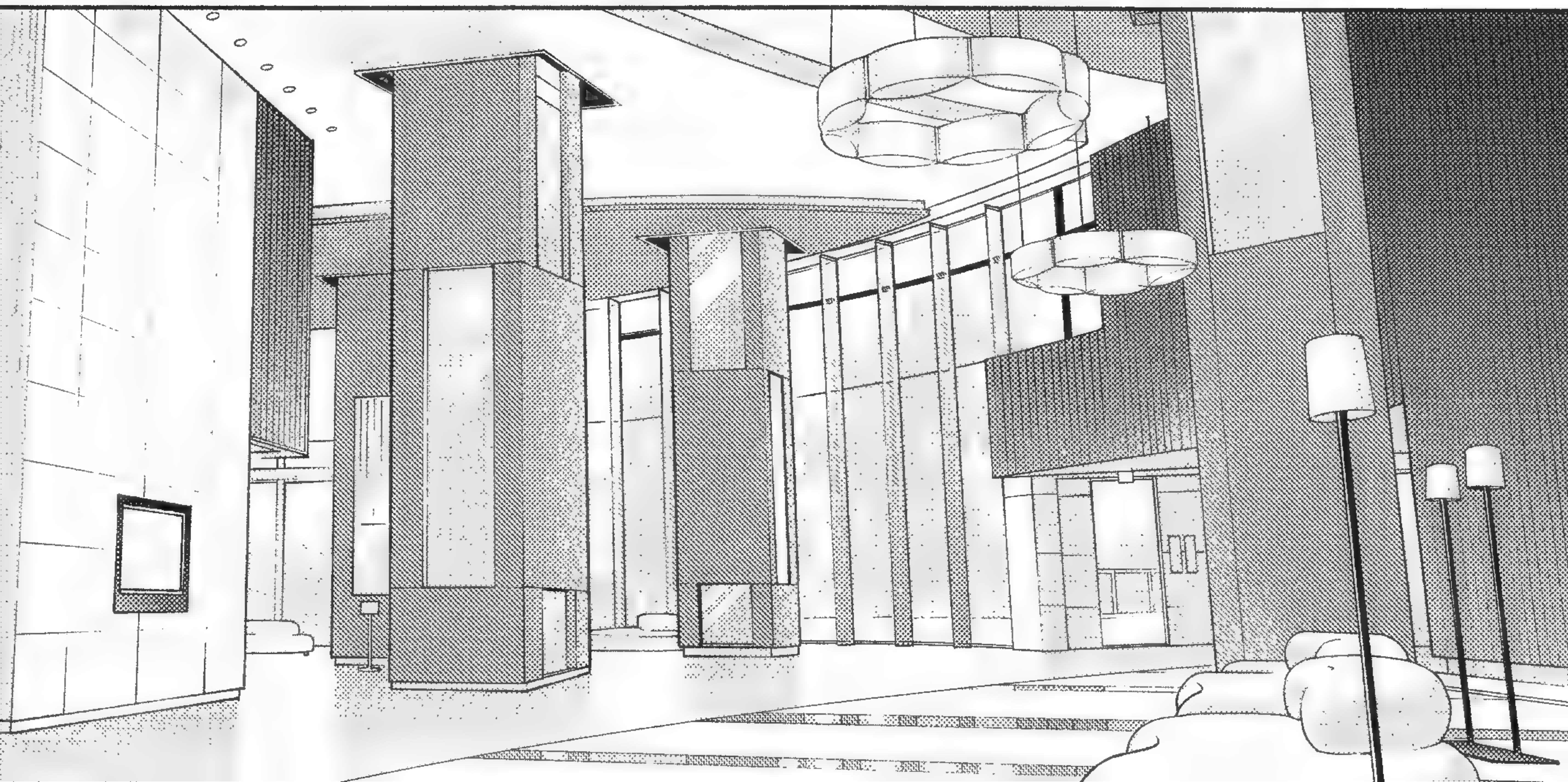
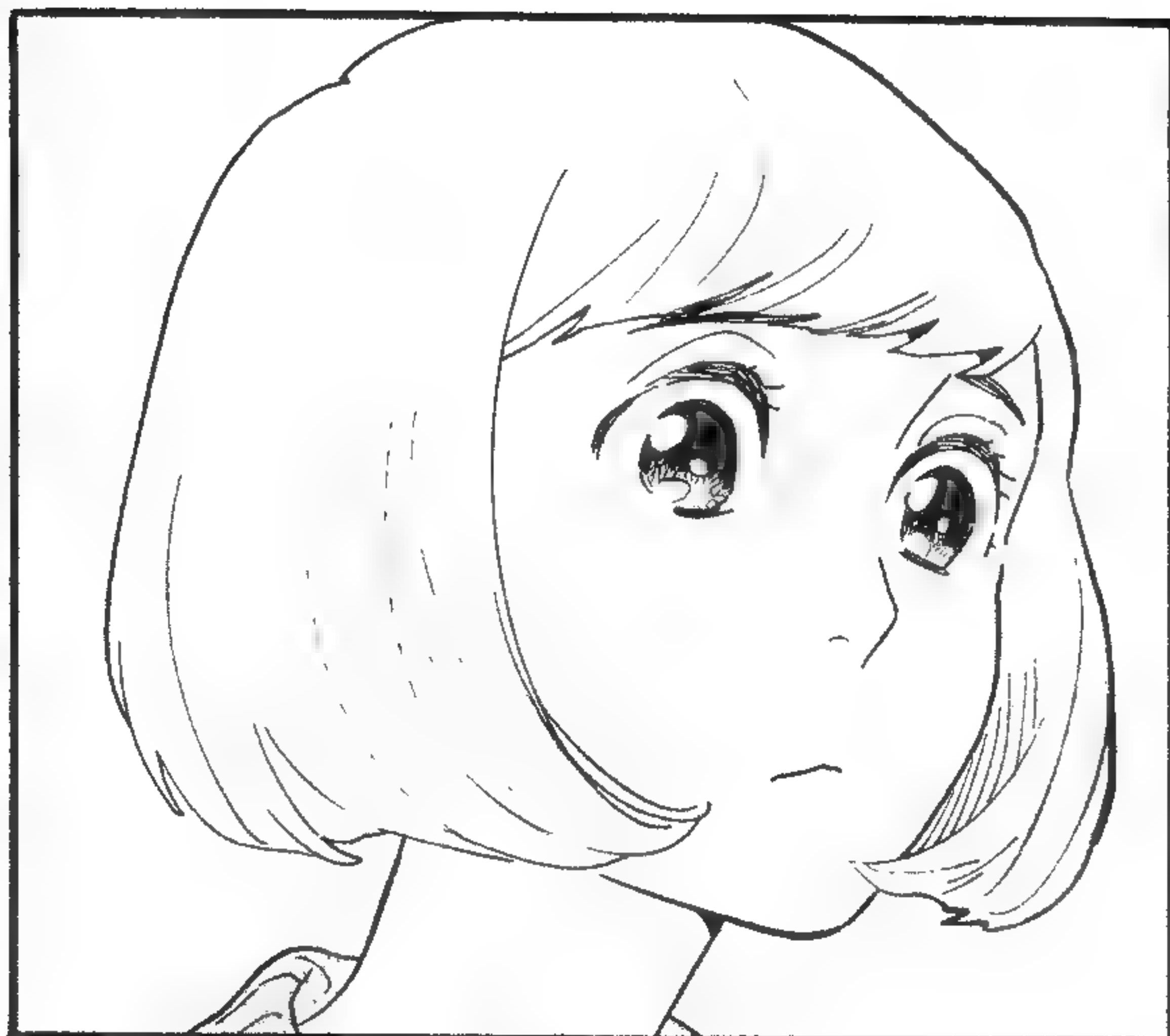
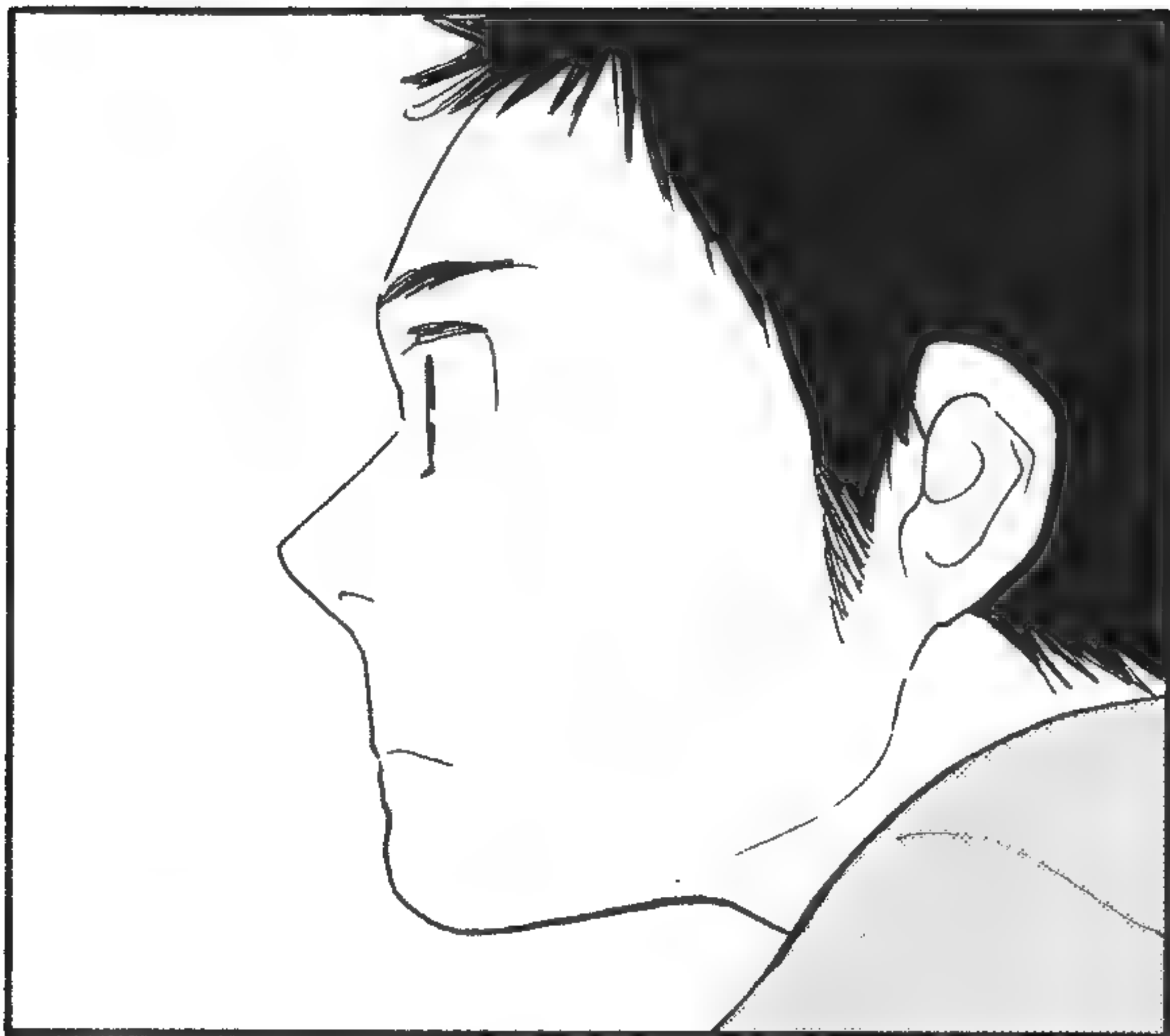
MAYBE  
I ALSO  
WANT TO  
FORGET THE  
PRESENT...

SINCE  
I'M GETTING  
MY HEART  
GOUGED OUT  
RIGHT NOW.













I don't mean to be rude, but...can I ask you something?

Sure.



Ah...! I'm sorry.

That's so personal. I didn't--



Do you want children?



Oh.

That's ...

That's... a good question.



But I know that not everyone feels the same way...



I mean, I think I want them. Kids.





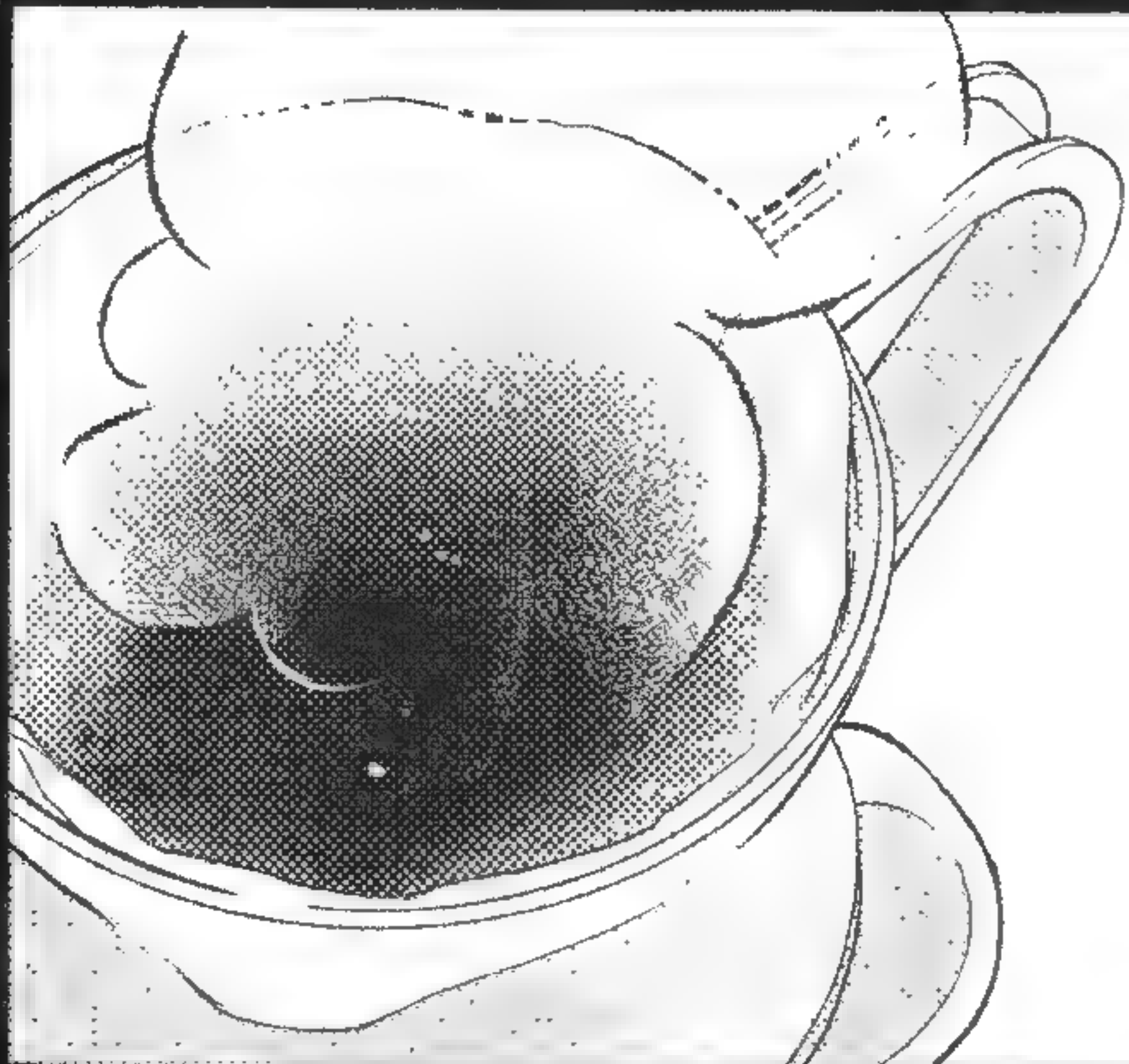
I  
THOUGHT  
I WANTED  
CHILDREN.



WE AGREED  
TO LEAVE IT TO  
NATURE. IF IT  
HAPPENED, IT  
HAPPENED.

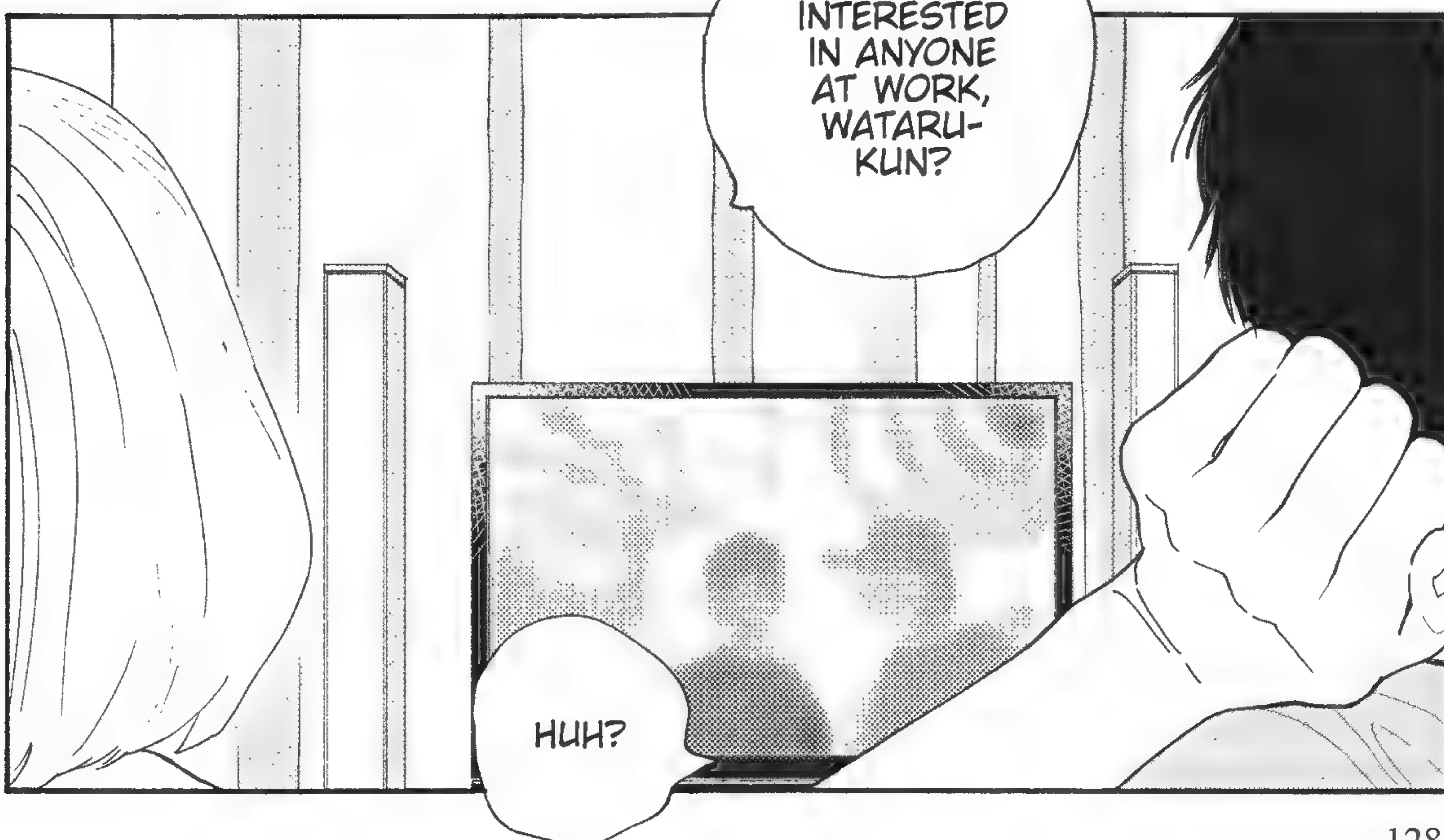
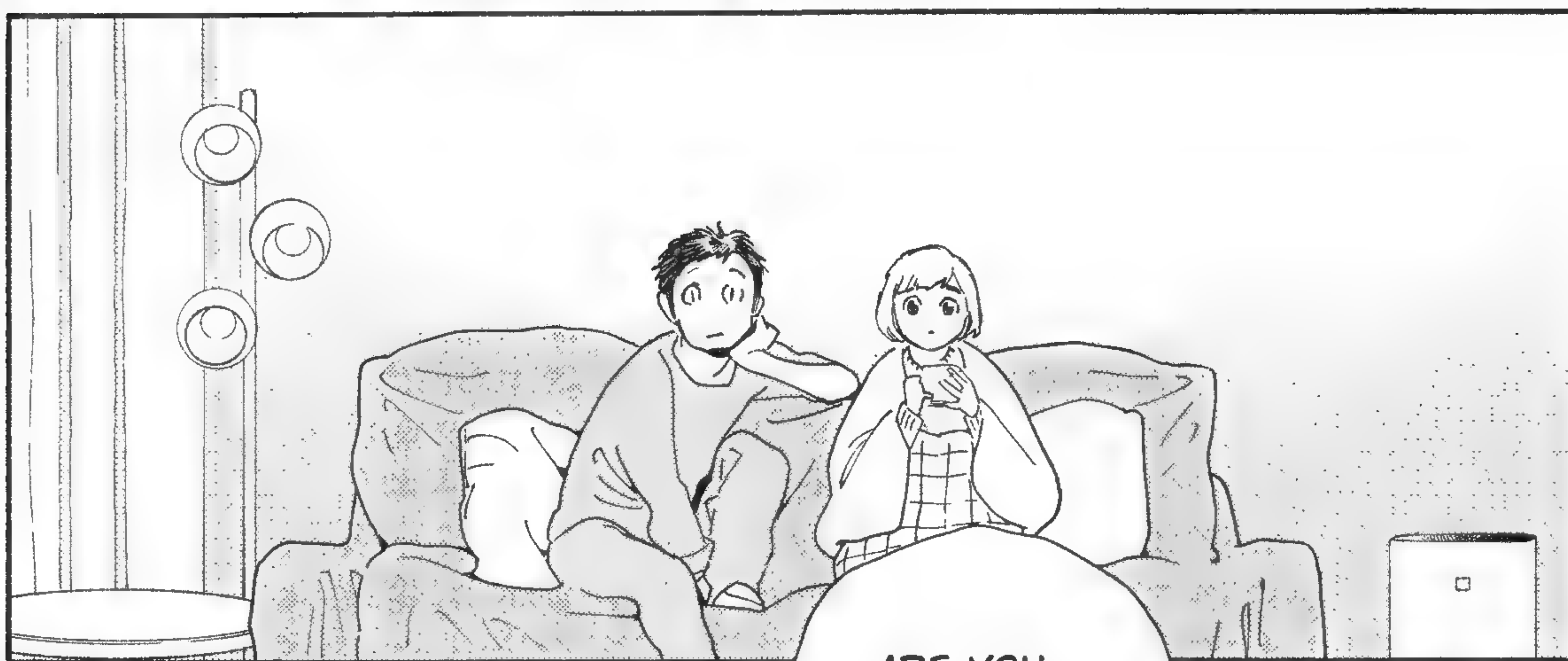
WE STARTED  
THINKING  
THAT MAYBE  
THAT WASN'T  
WORKING,  
THOUGH.

EVERY TIME I  
THOUGHT WE  
WERE CLOSE,  
IT TURNED OUT  
WE WEREN'T.

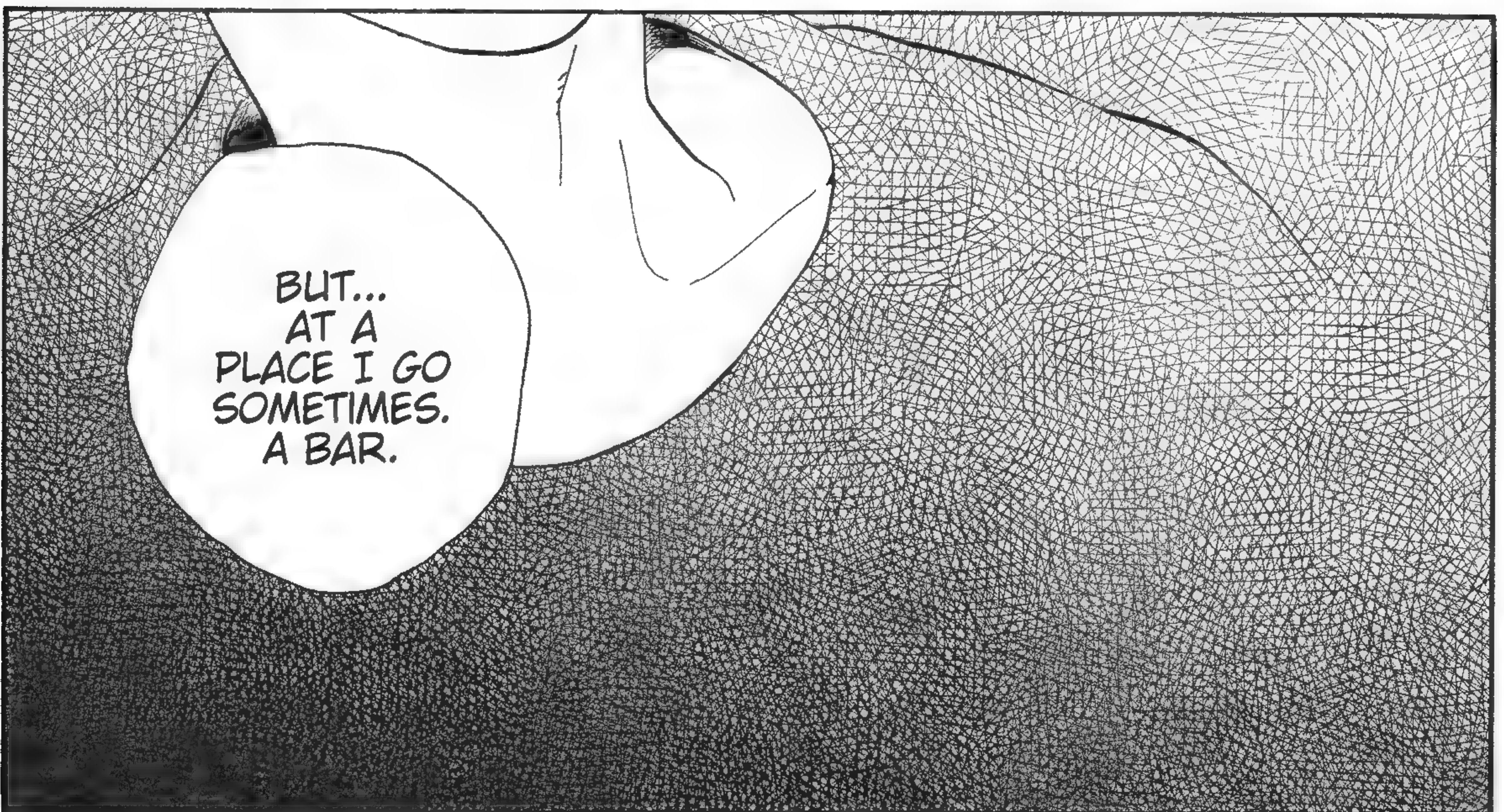


WE TALKED  
AND TALKED.  
ABOUT OUR  
OPTIONS IF  
NATURE DIDN'T  
PLAY BALL.

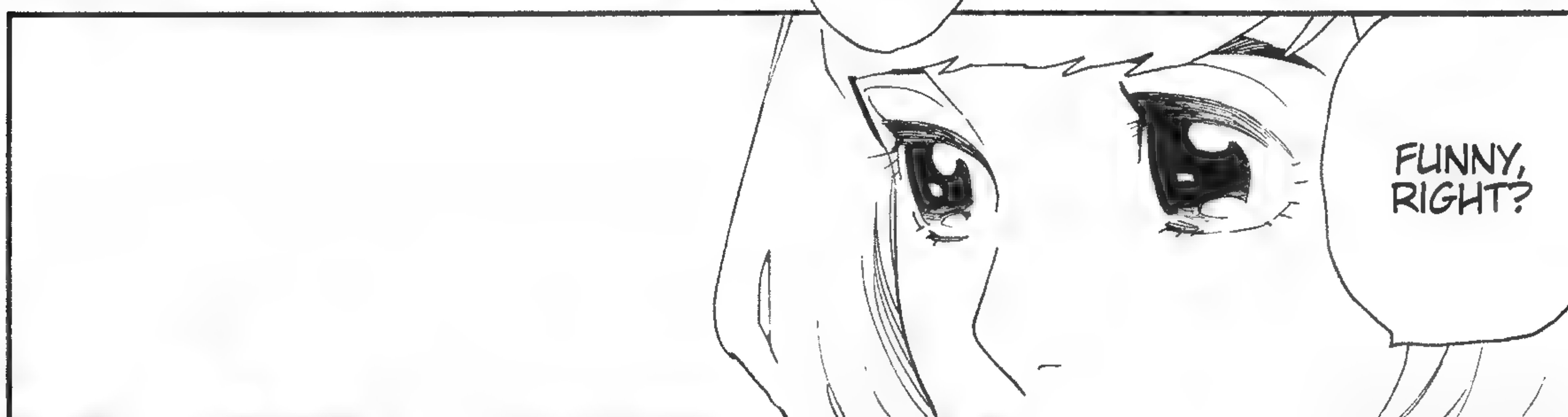














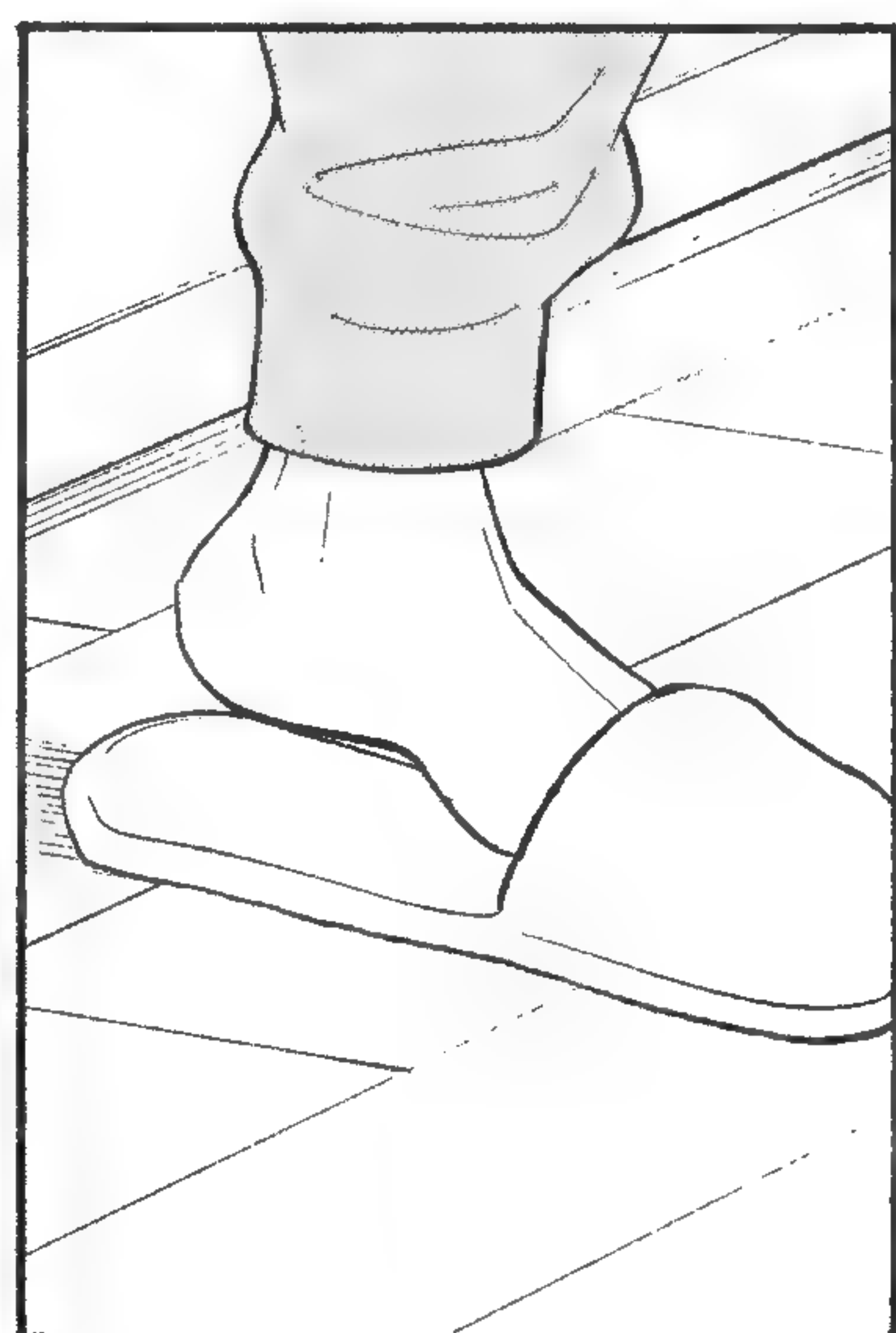
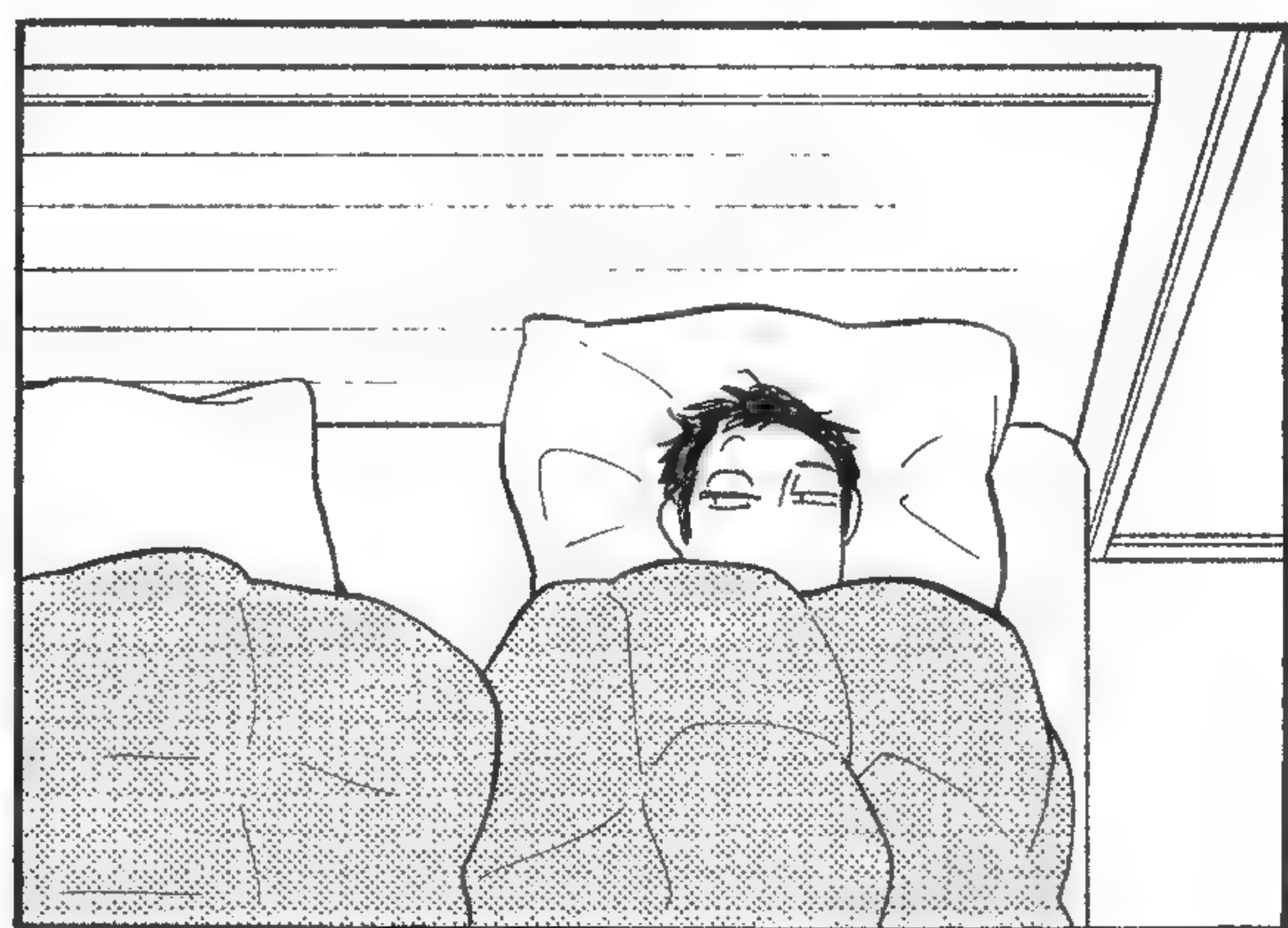
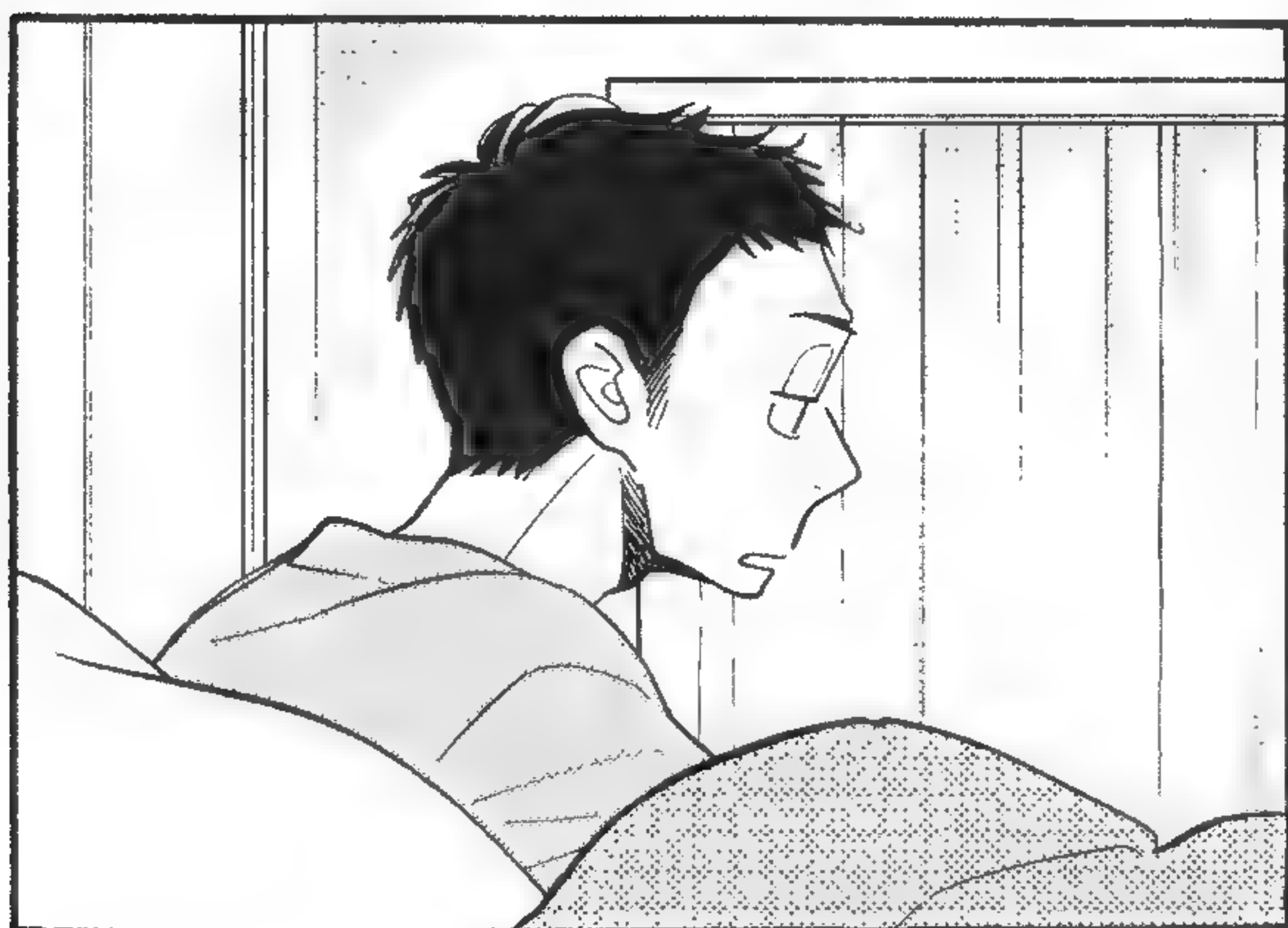
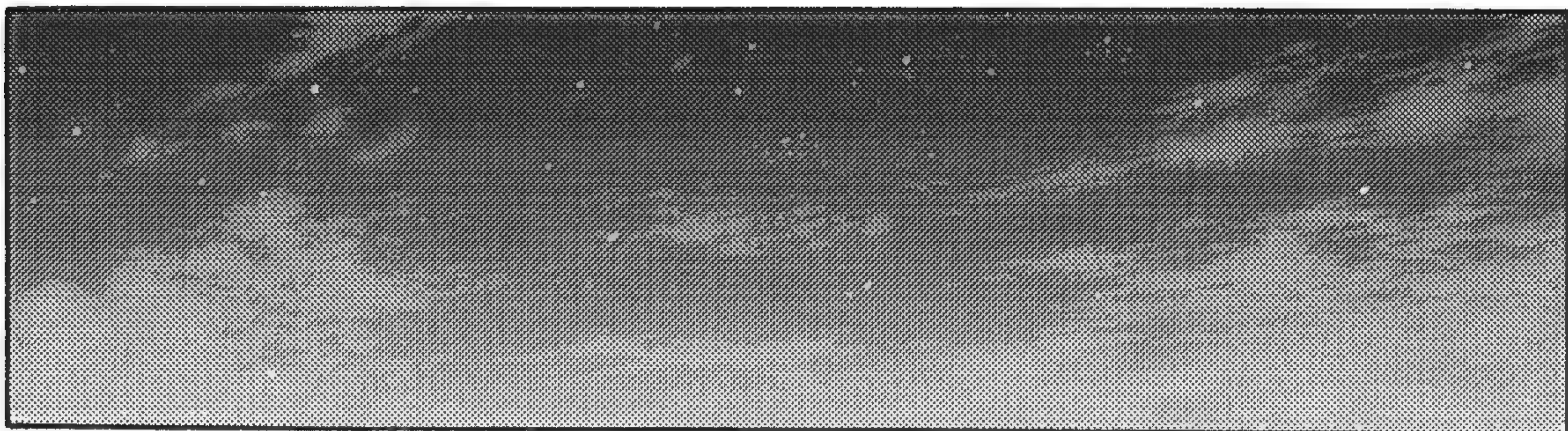


**Chapter 5**  
**A Whole New**  
**World**

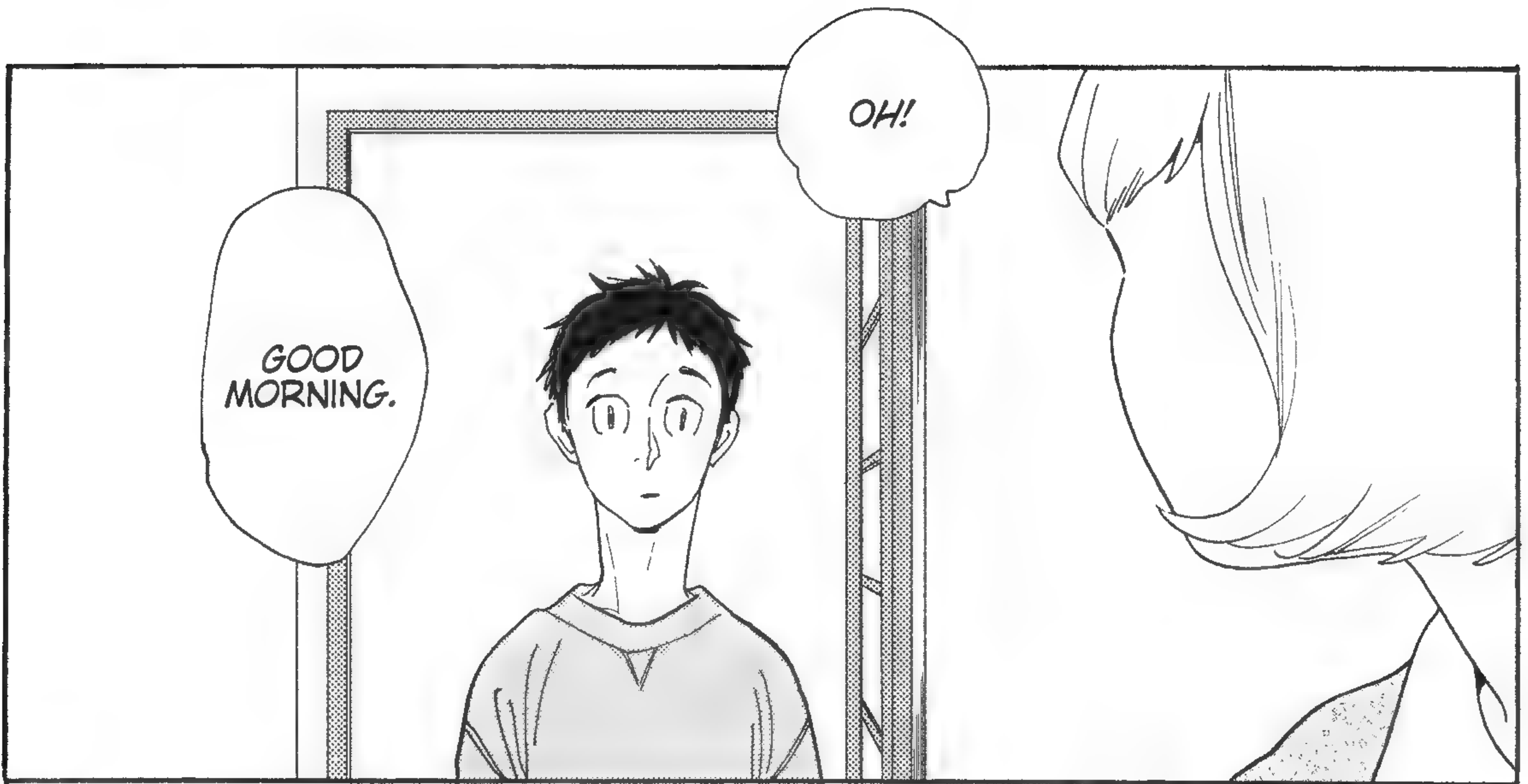








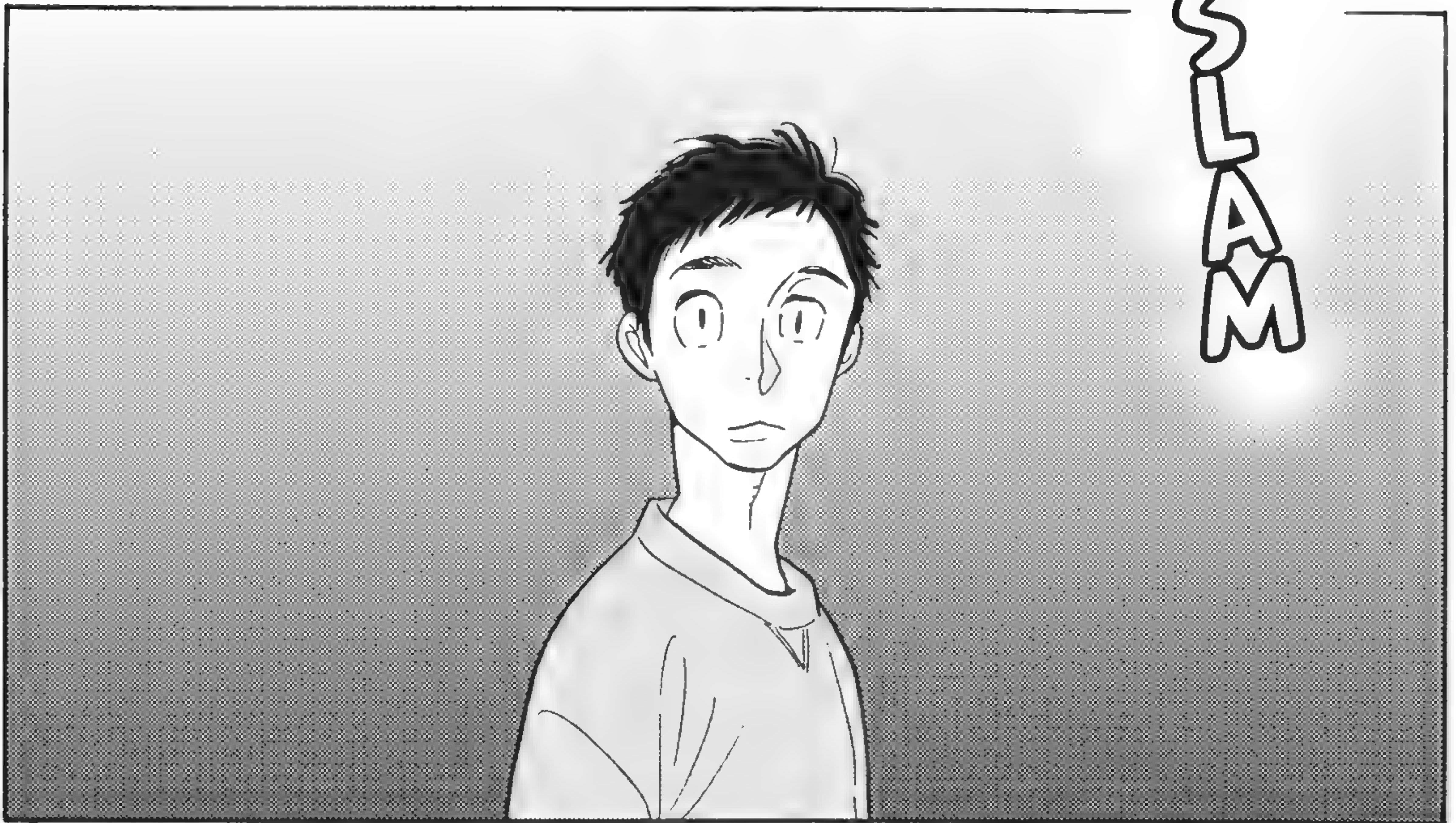




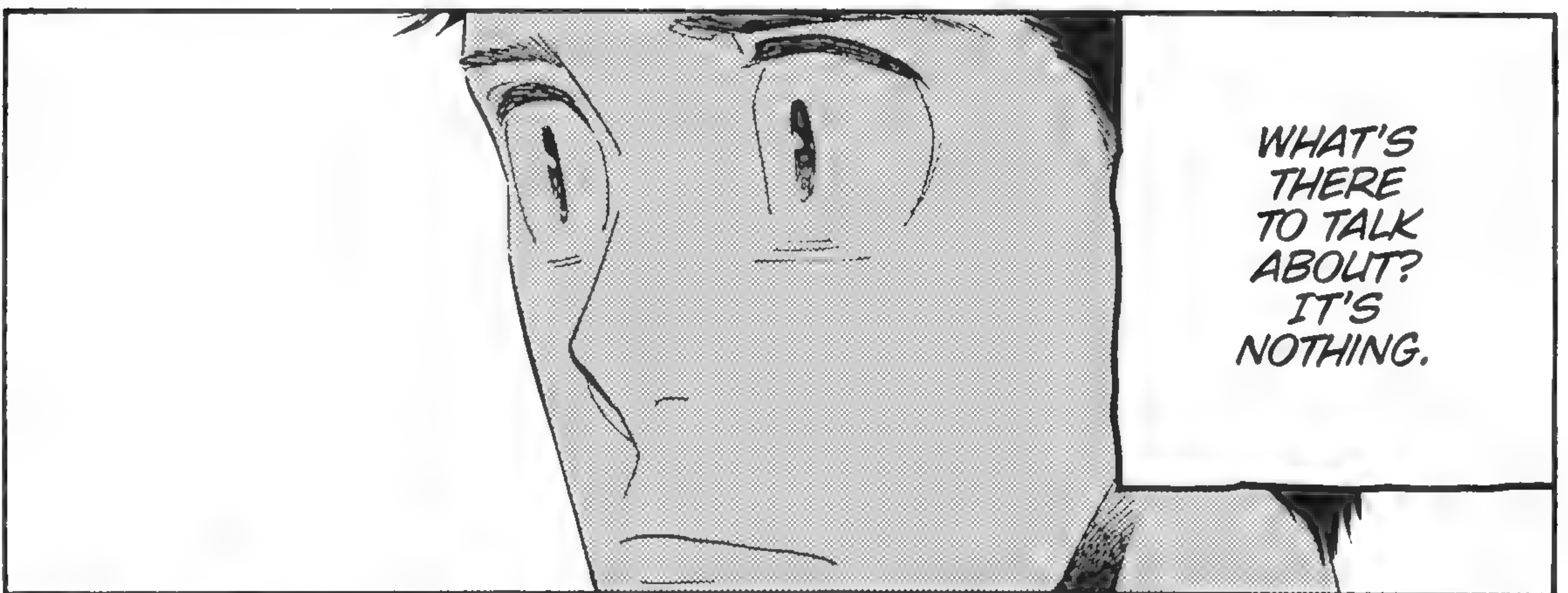








SLAM



WHAT'S  
THERE  
TO TALK  
ABOUT?  
IT'S  
NOTHING.



I DON'T  
UNDER-  
STAND  
HER, SO  
MY BRAIN  
WON'T  
ENGAGE  
WITH IT.



I...DON'T  
UNDER-  
STAND.



NO.



NOT  
NOTHING.

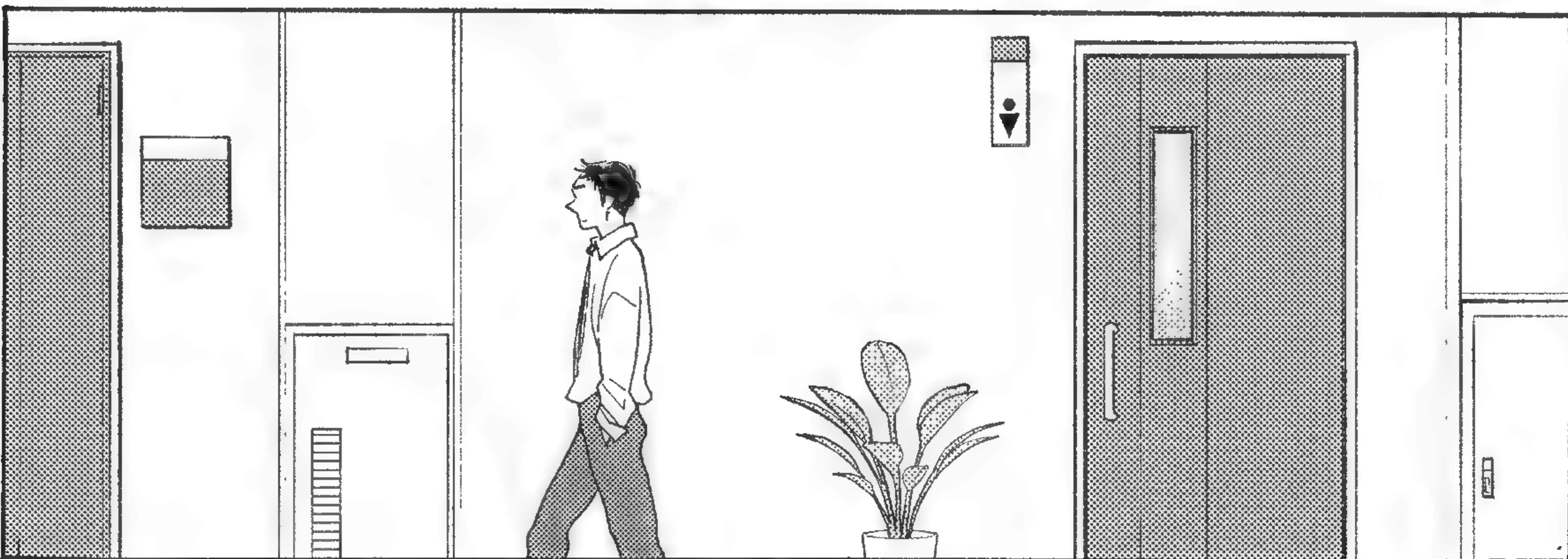


I DIDN'T  
THINK  
SHE'D  
BE THIS  
SELFISH.

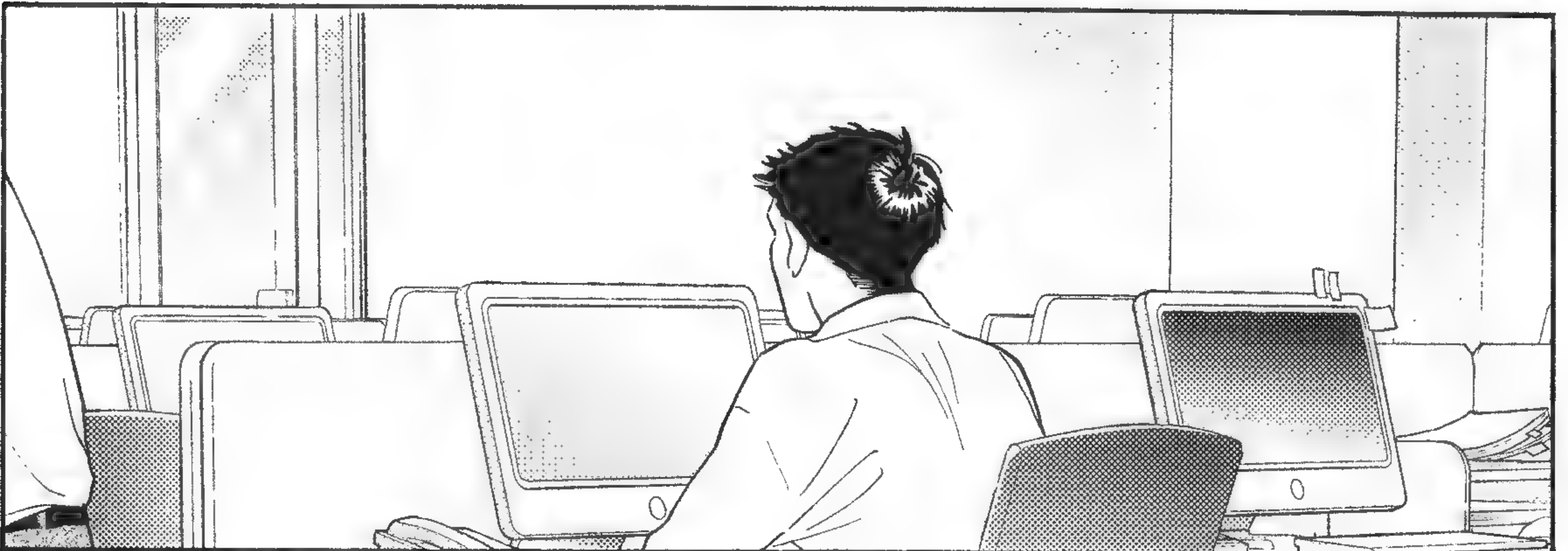
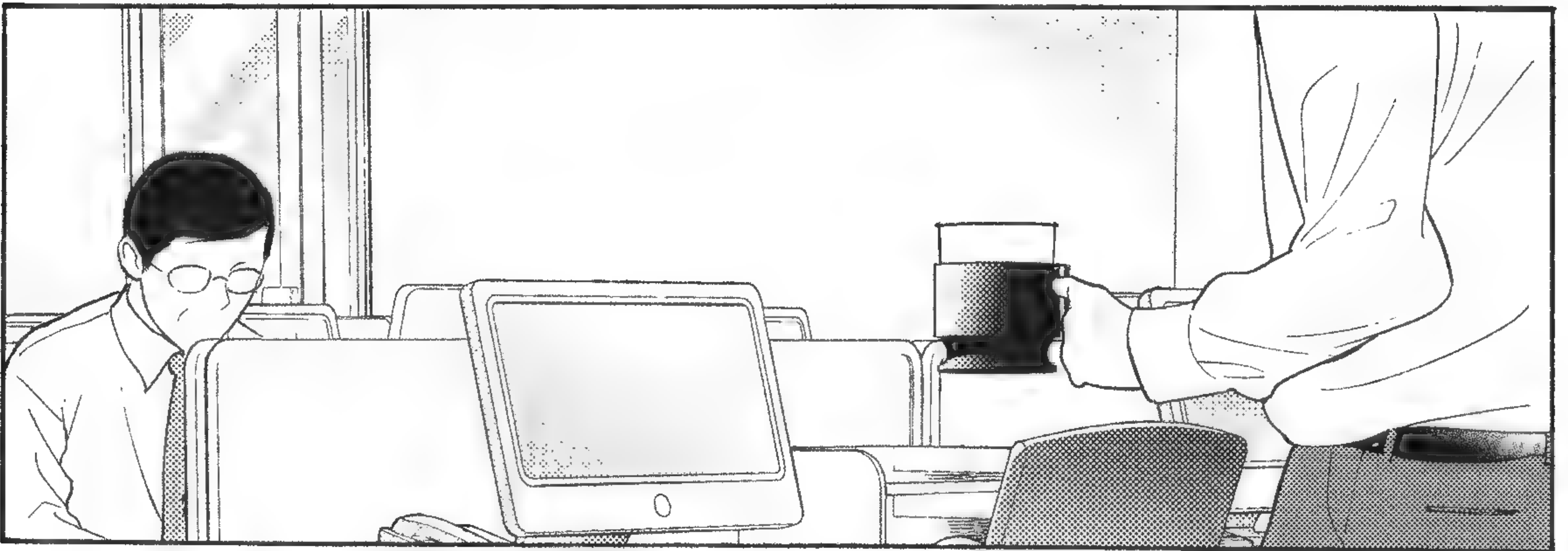
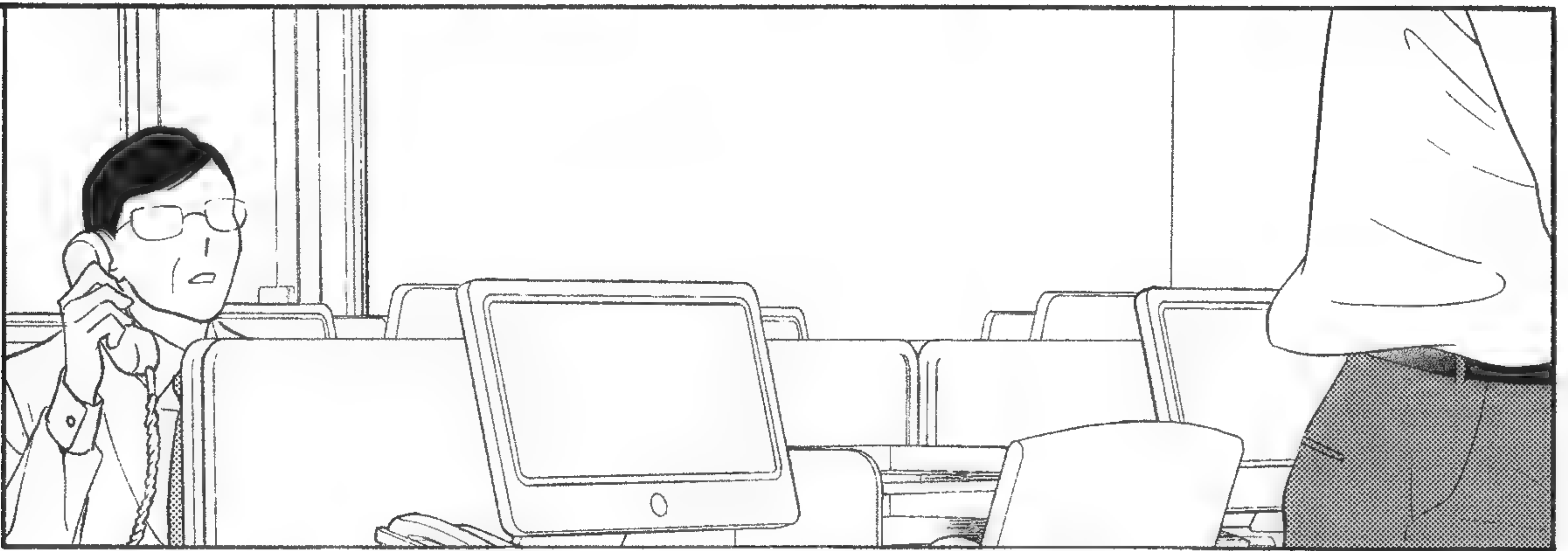
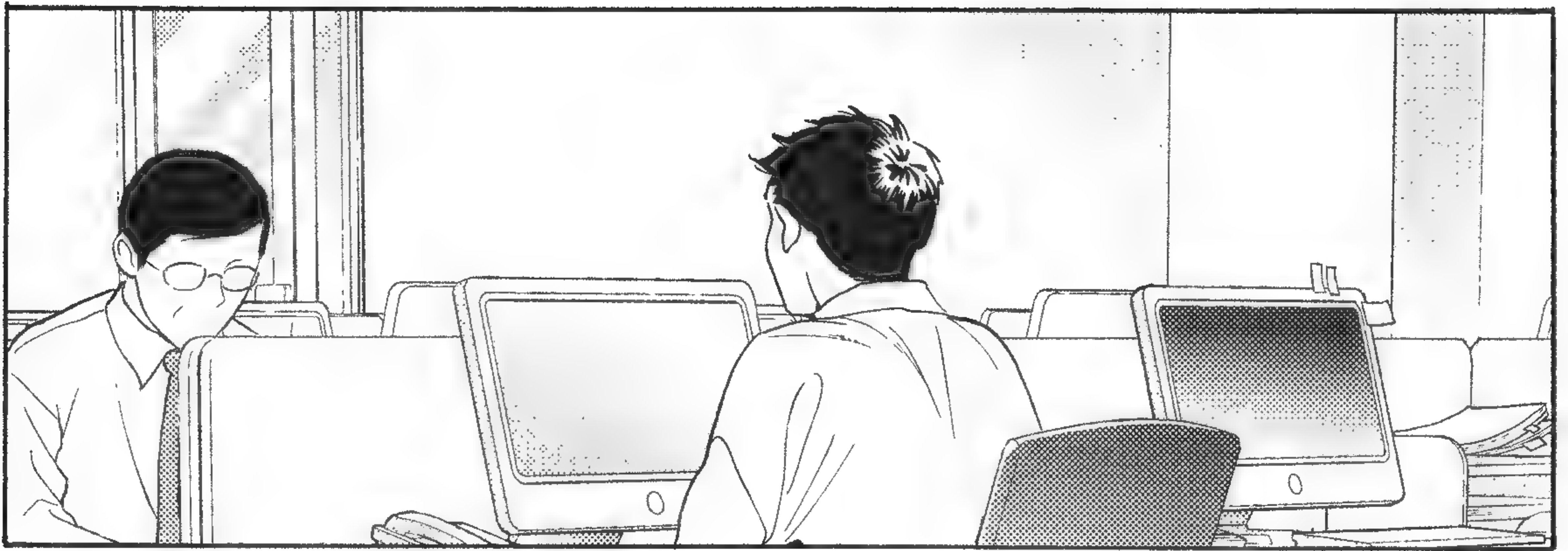


A black and white manga-style illustration of a man standing in a kitchen, looking at a microwave. A speech bubble says "I DON'T WANT TO GO INTO WORK TODAY." On the right, there is a large, stylized sound effect "DING!" and a small object on the counter.

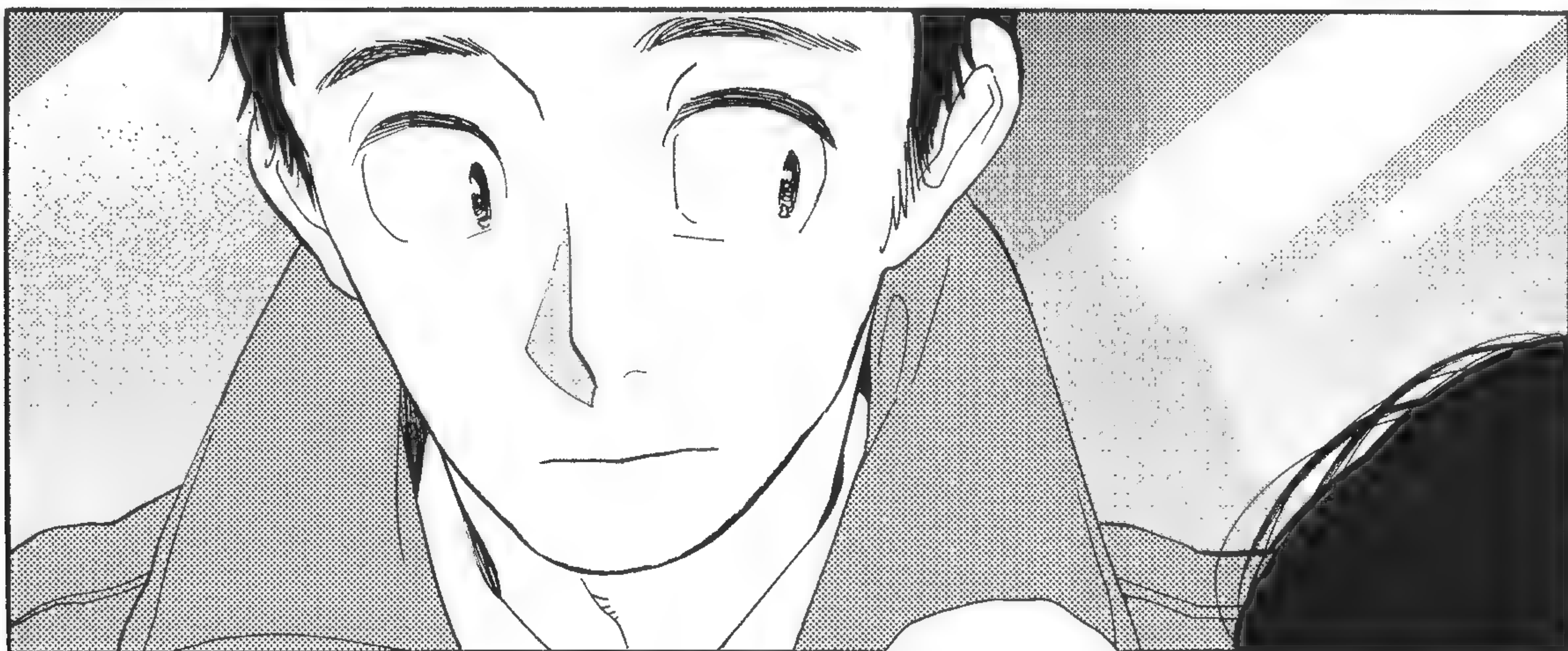




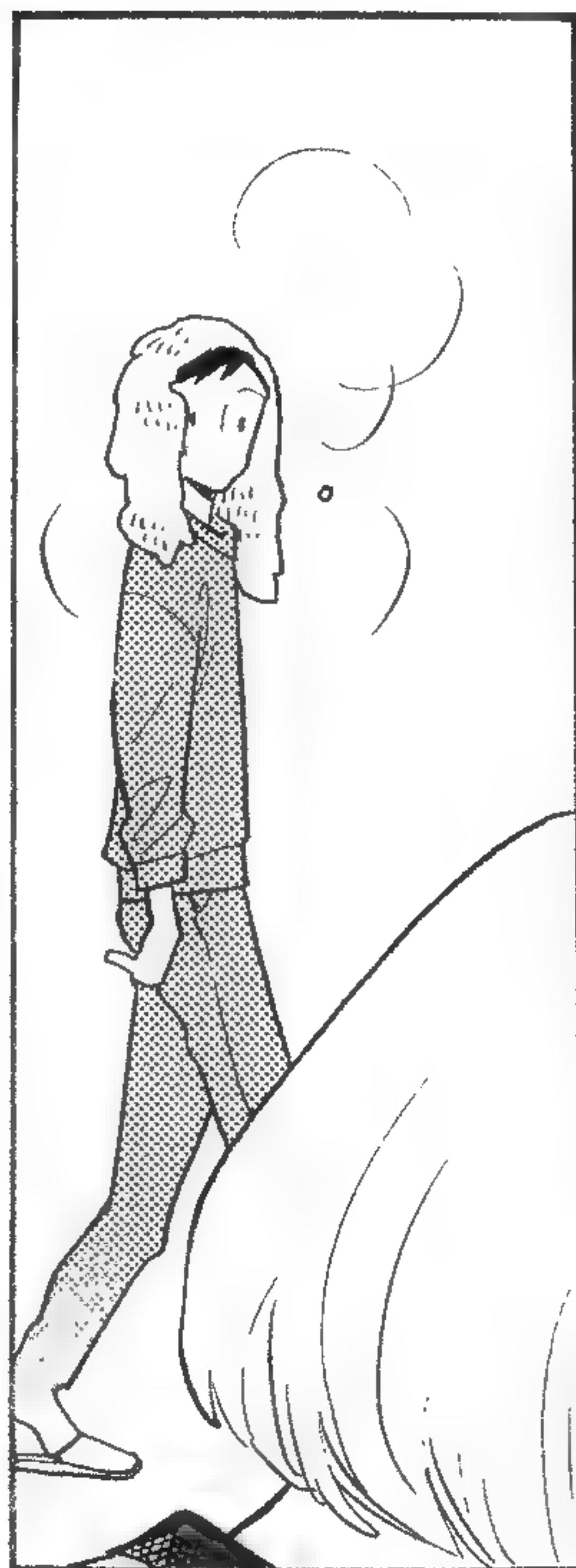
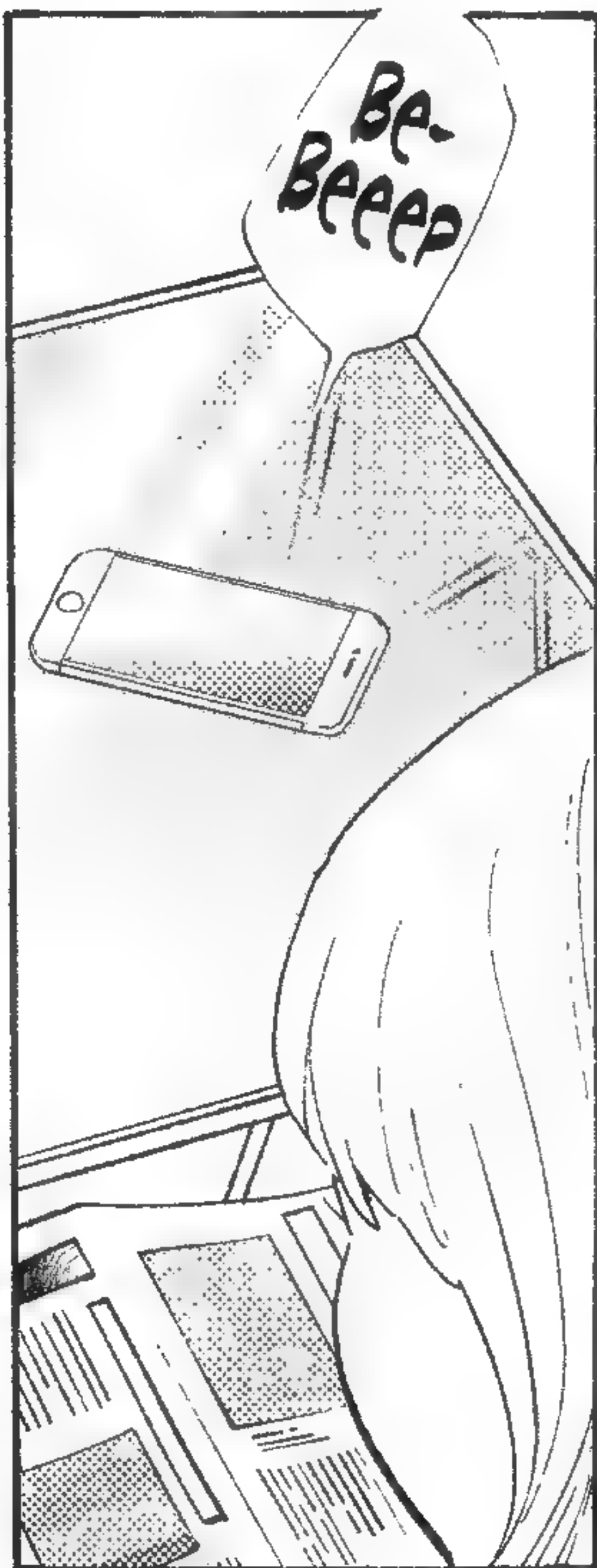
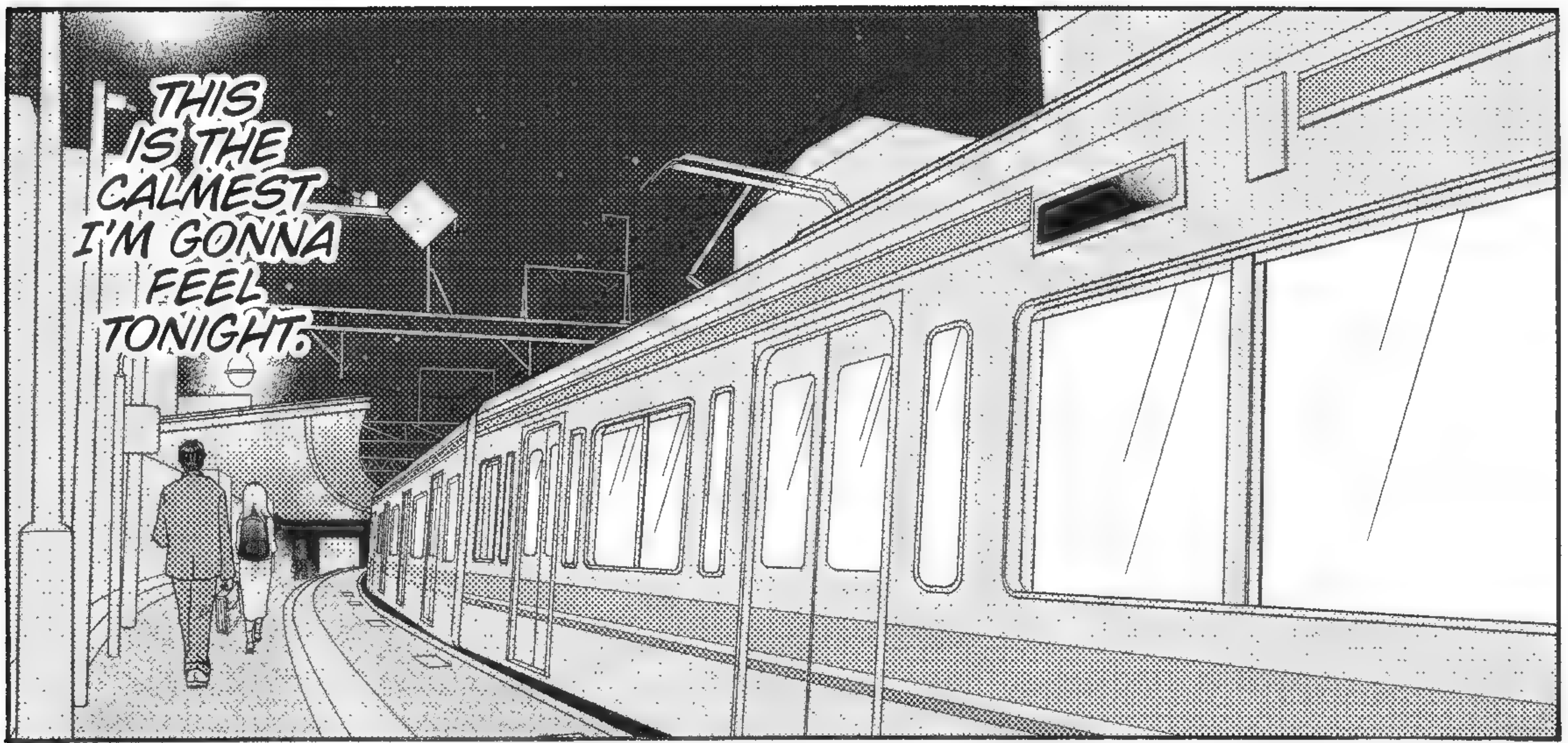




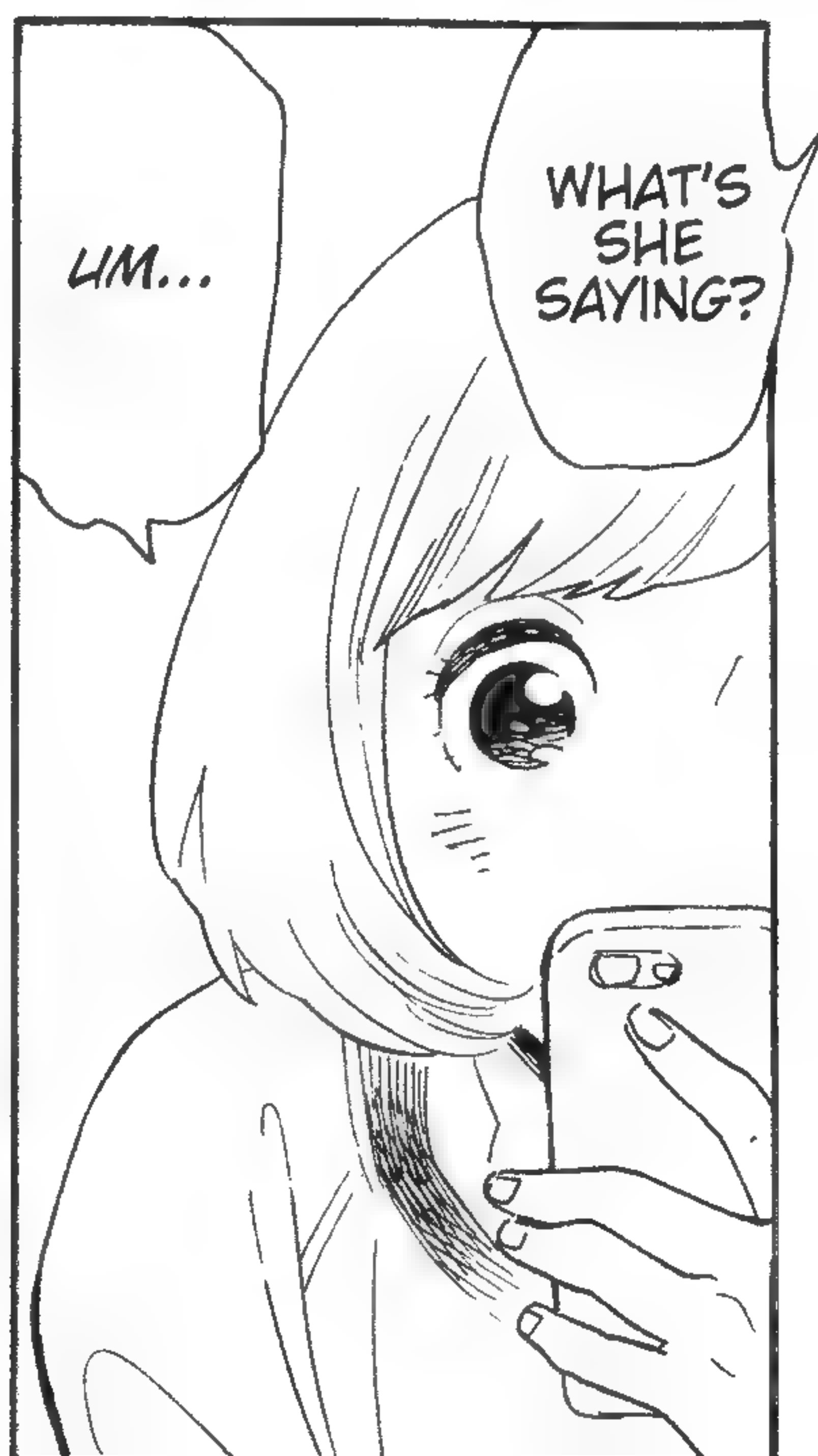




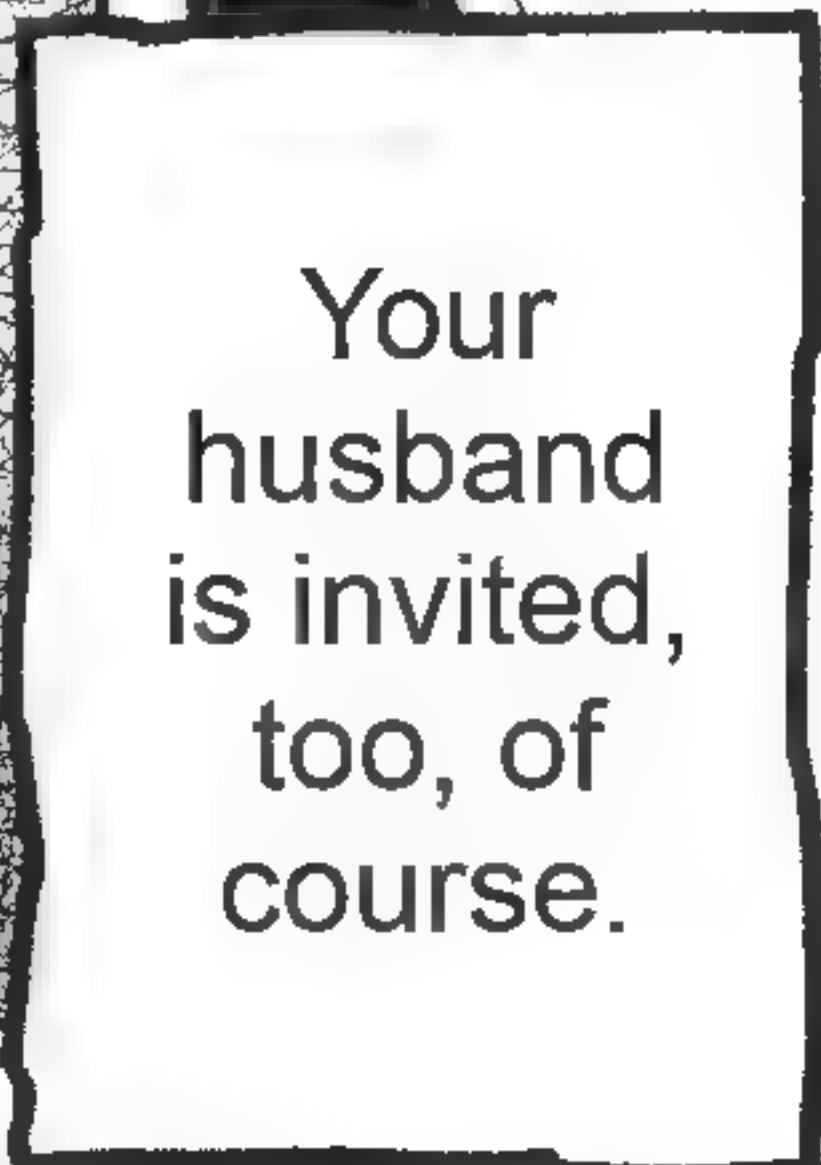
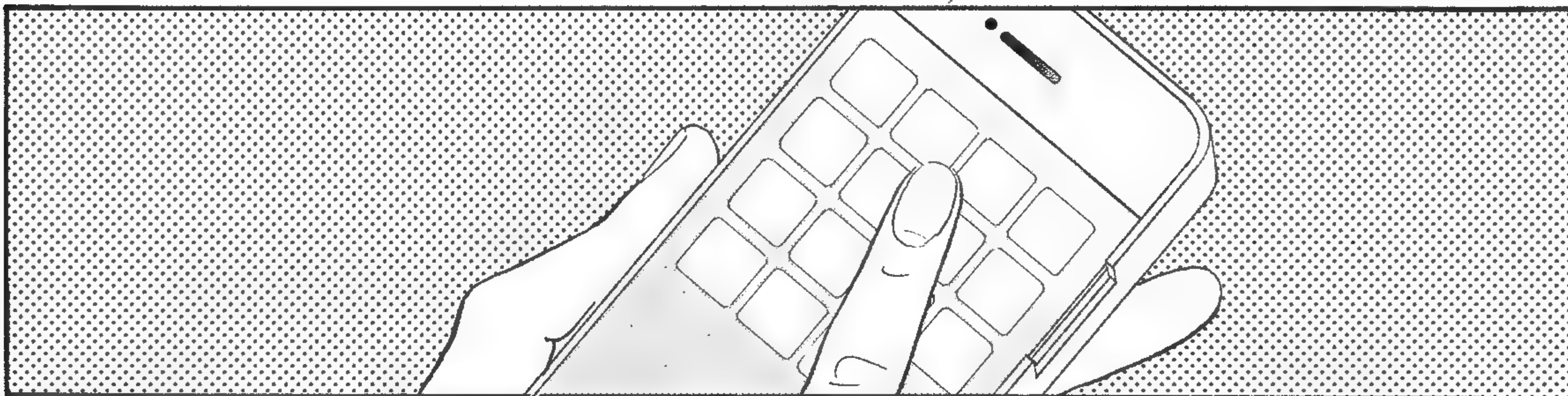
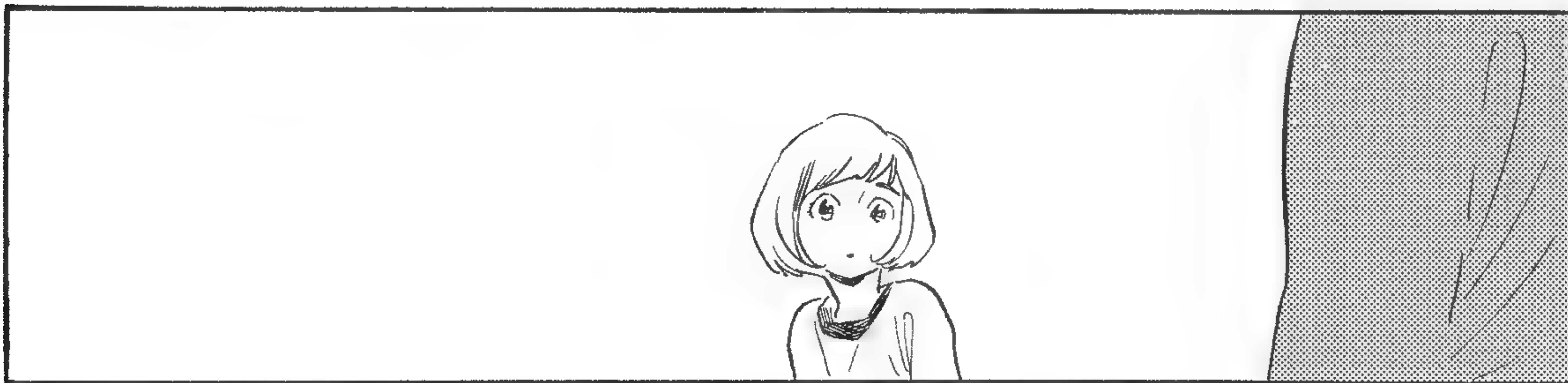
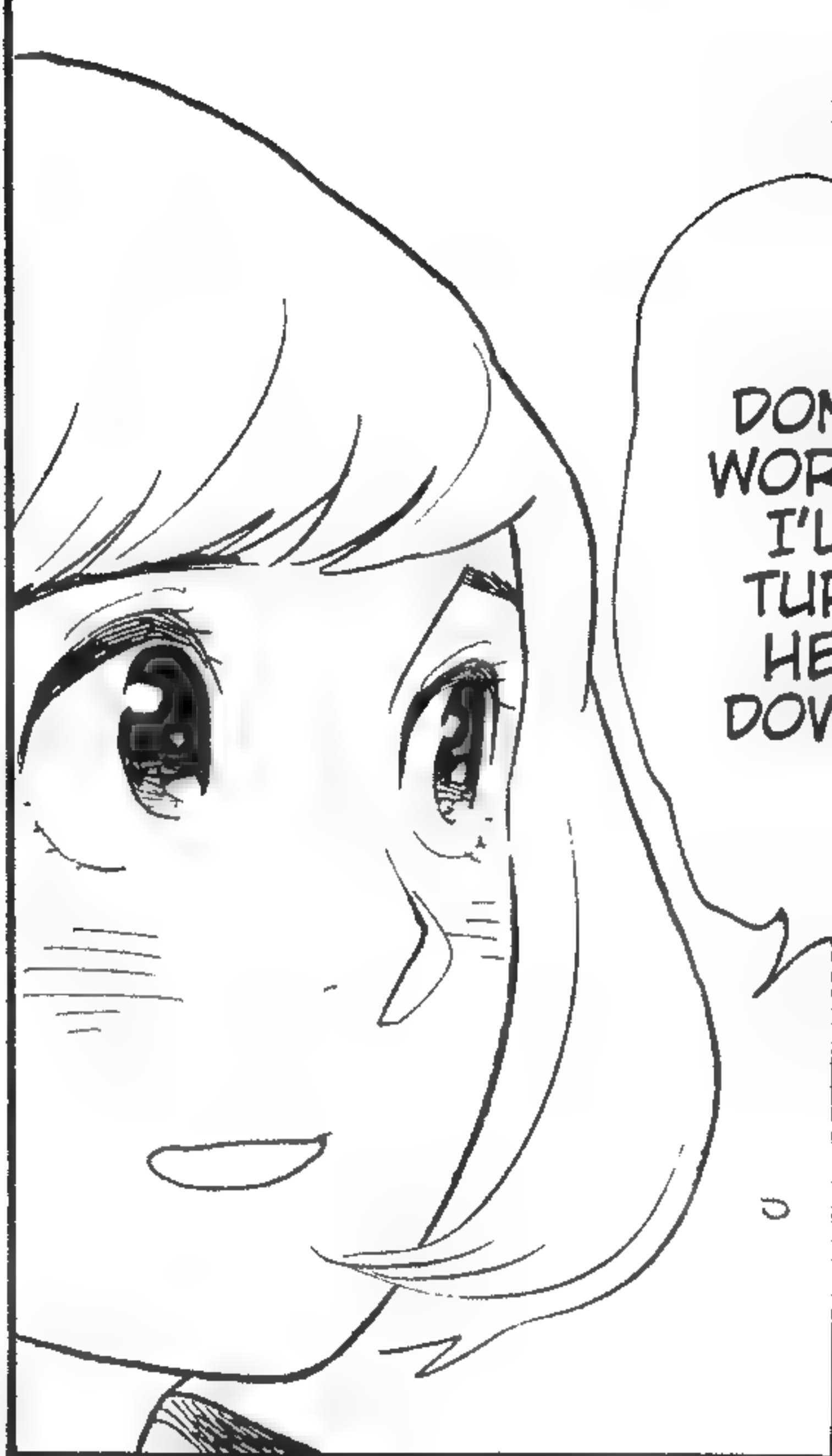




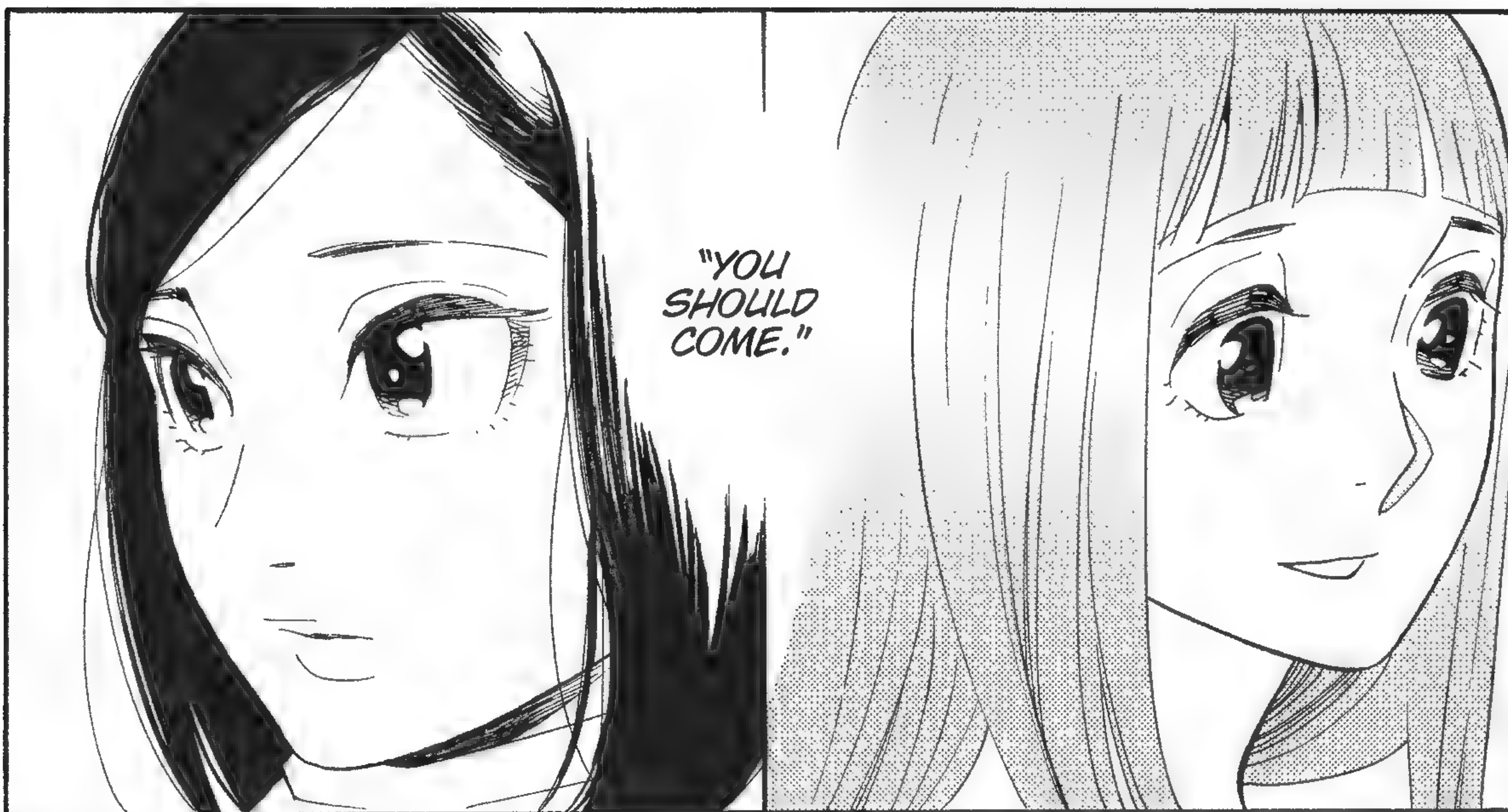




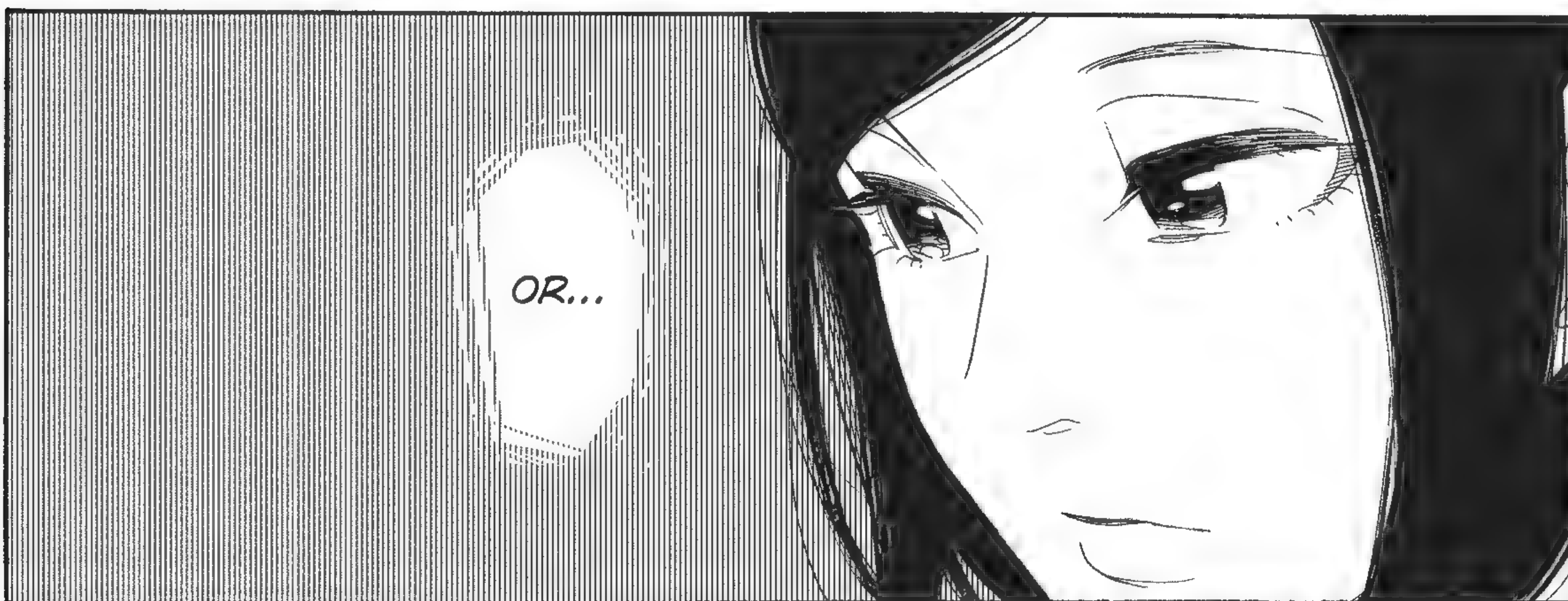




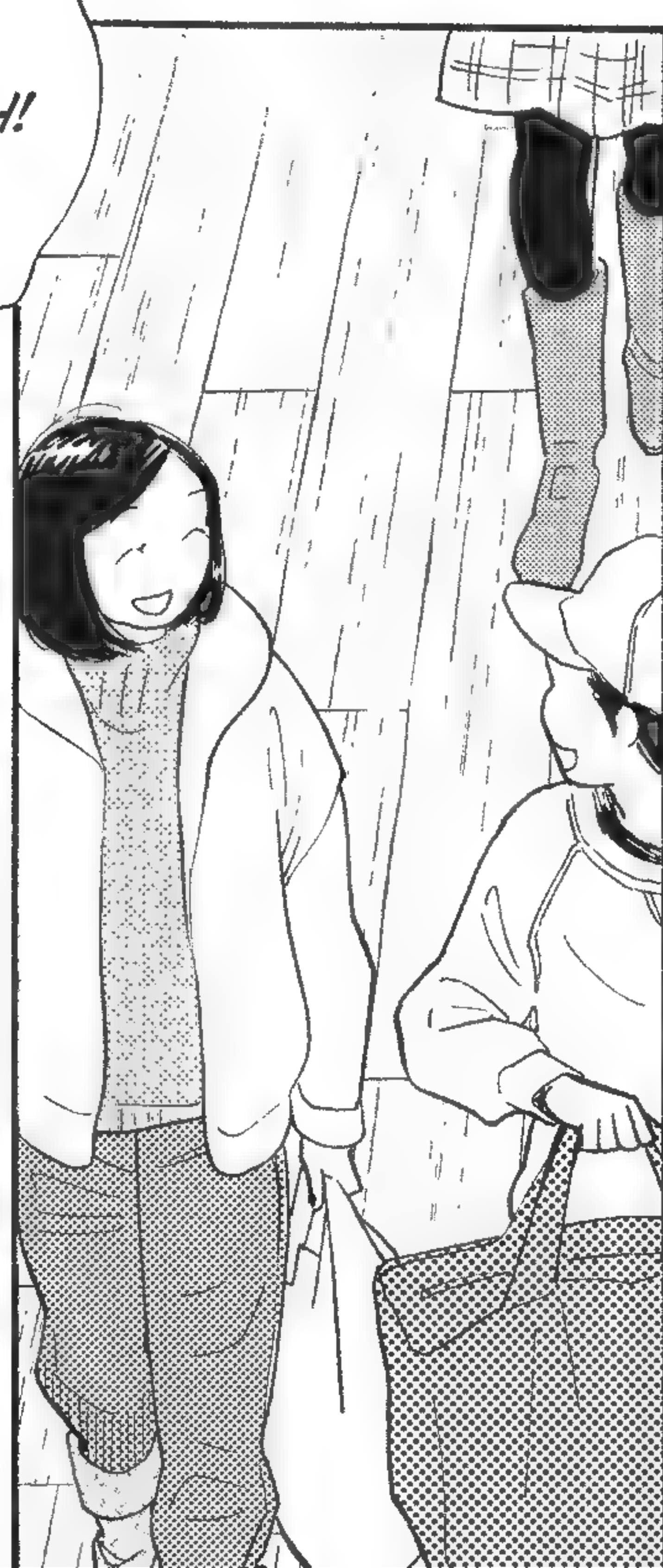
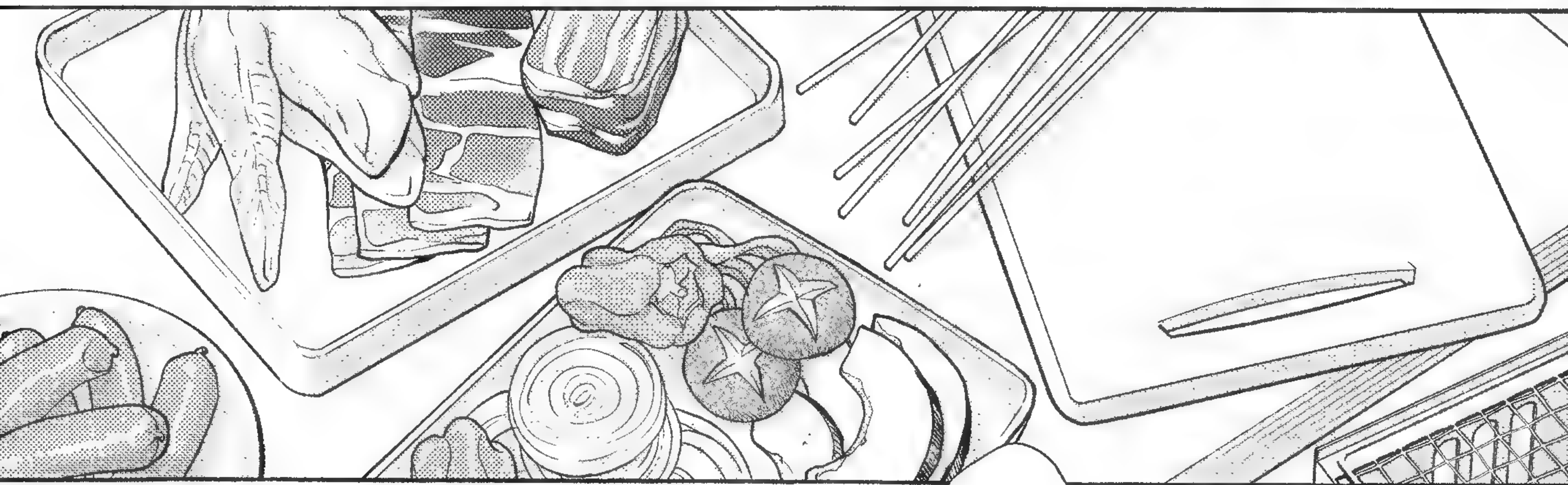
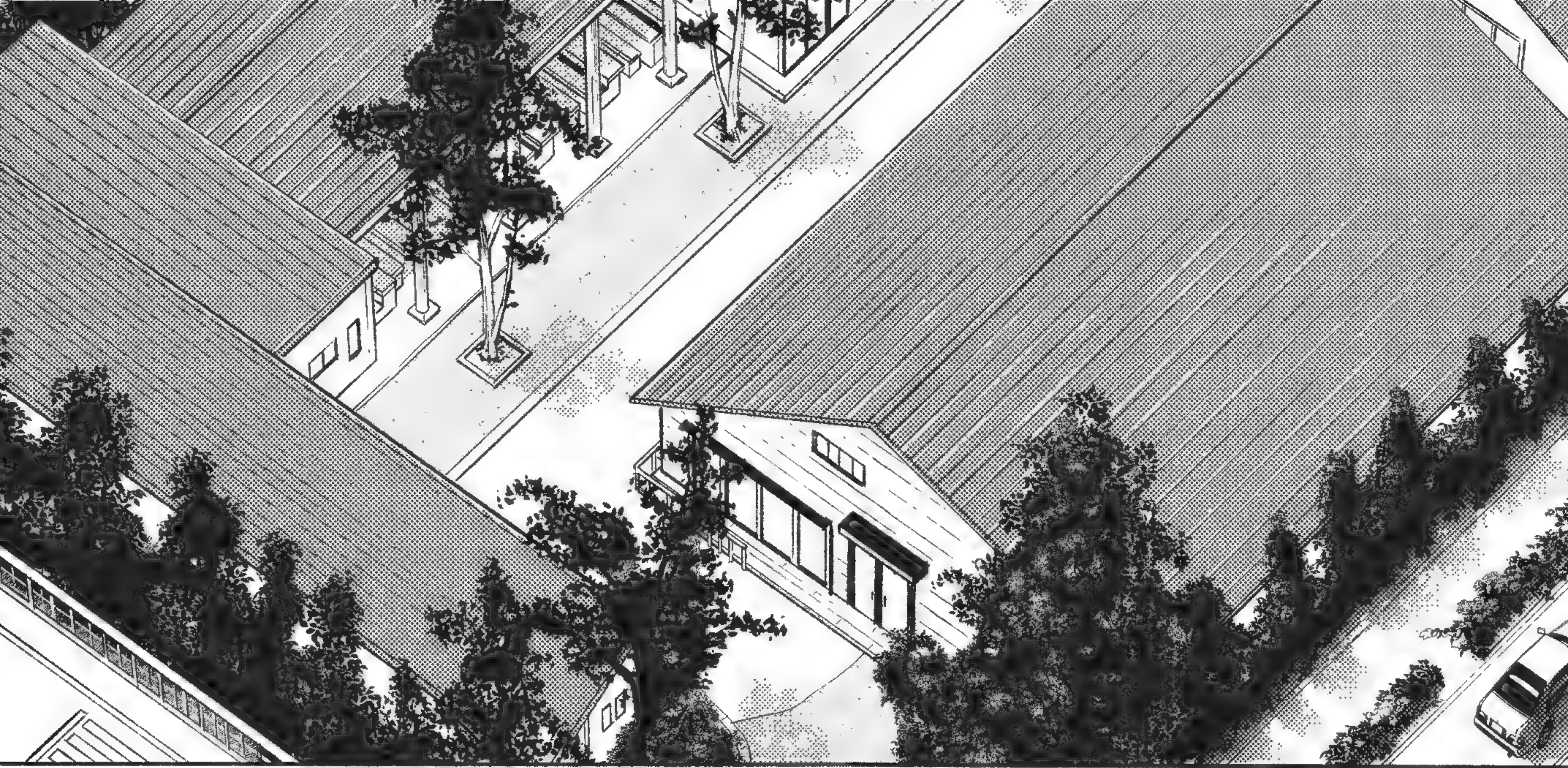




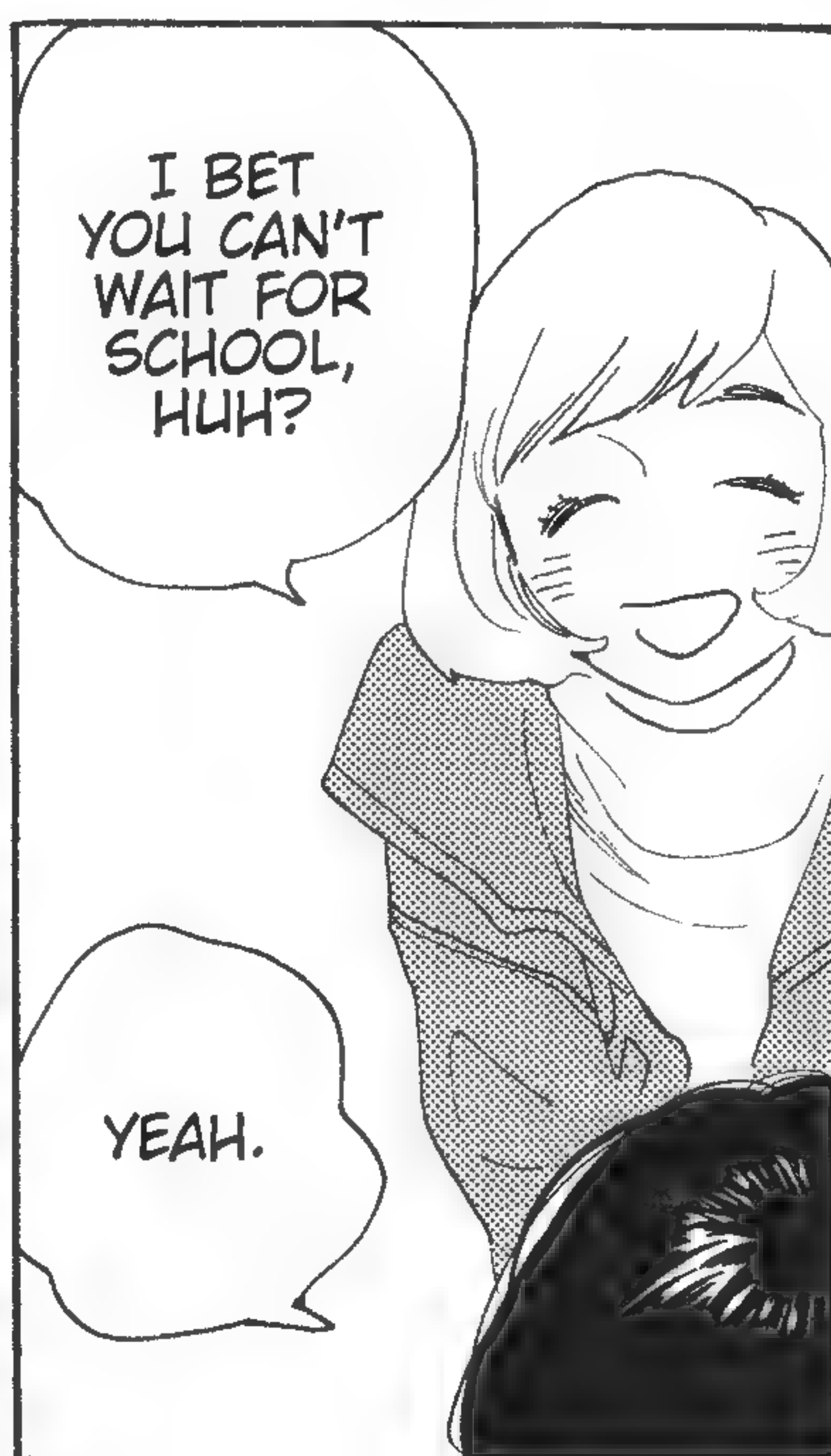
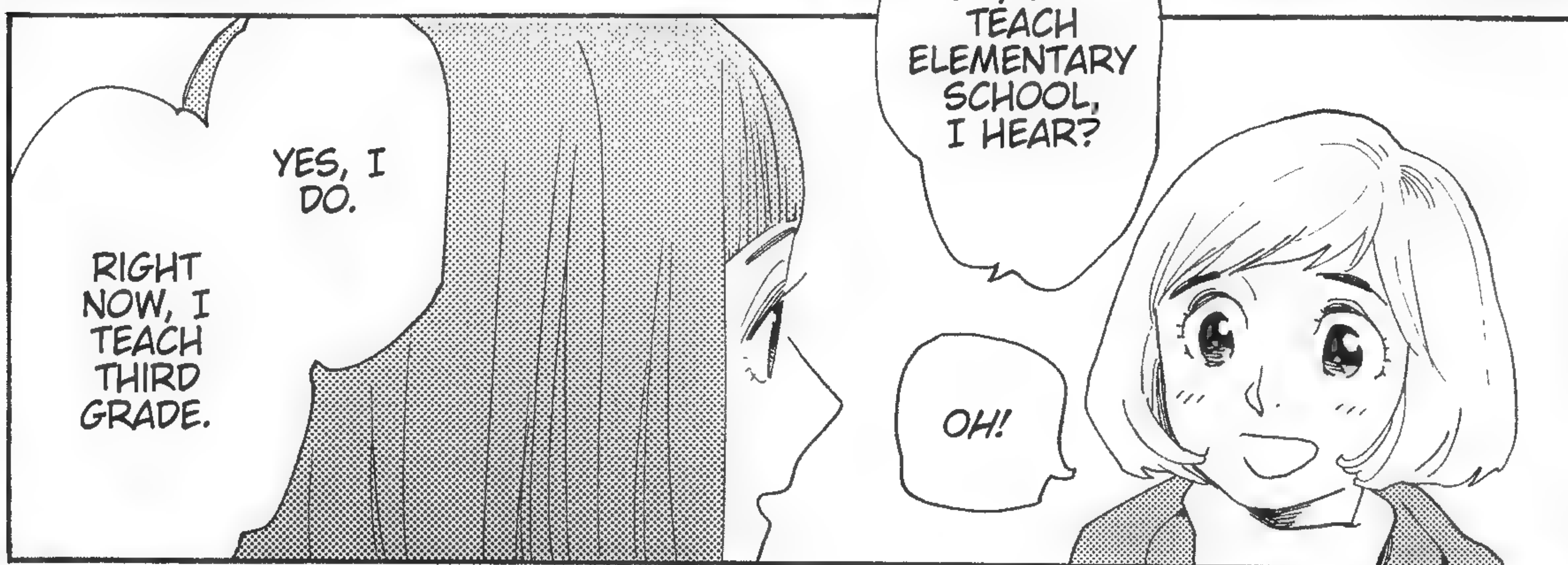








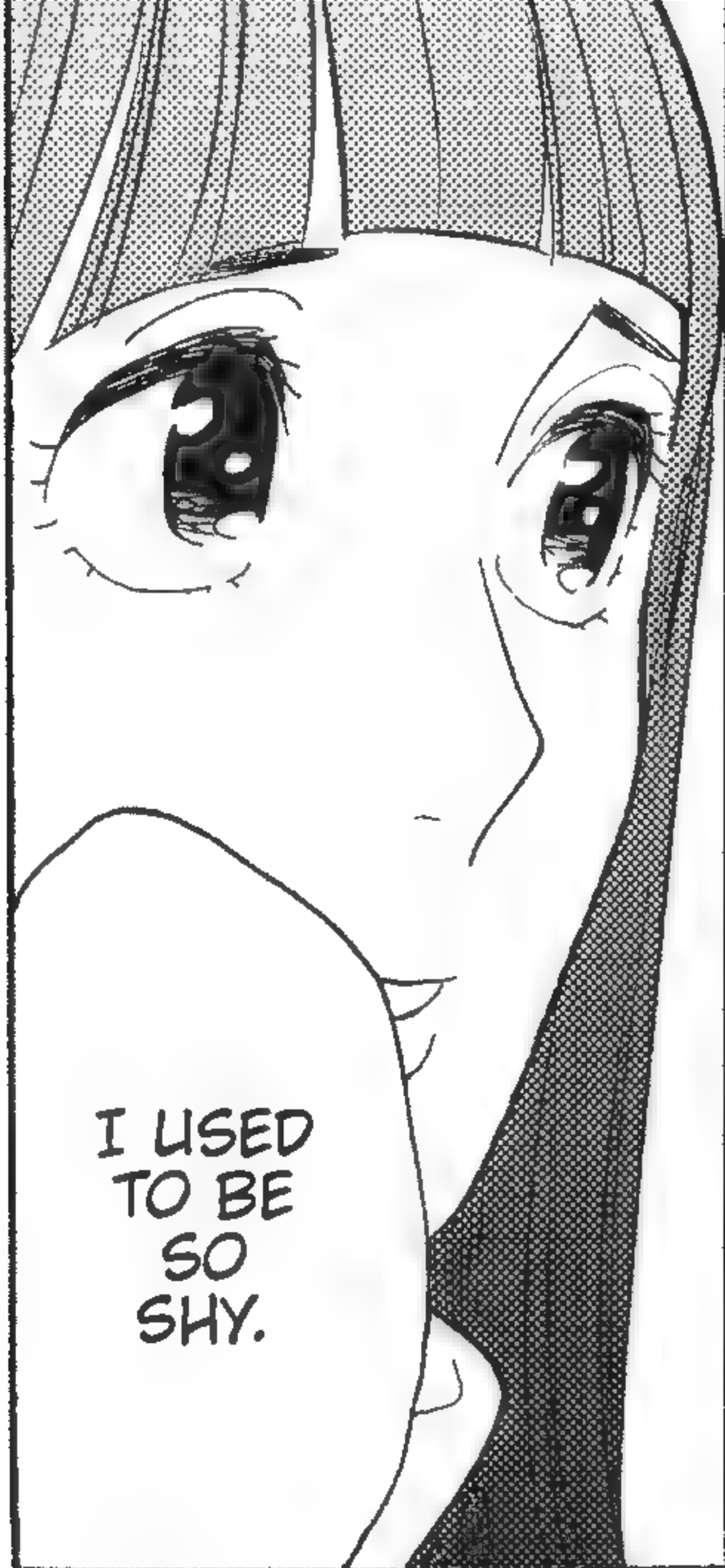












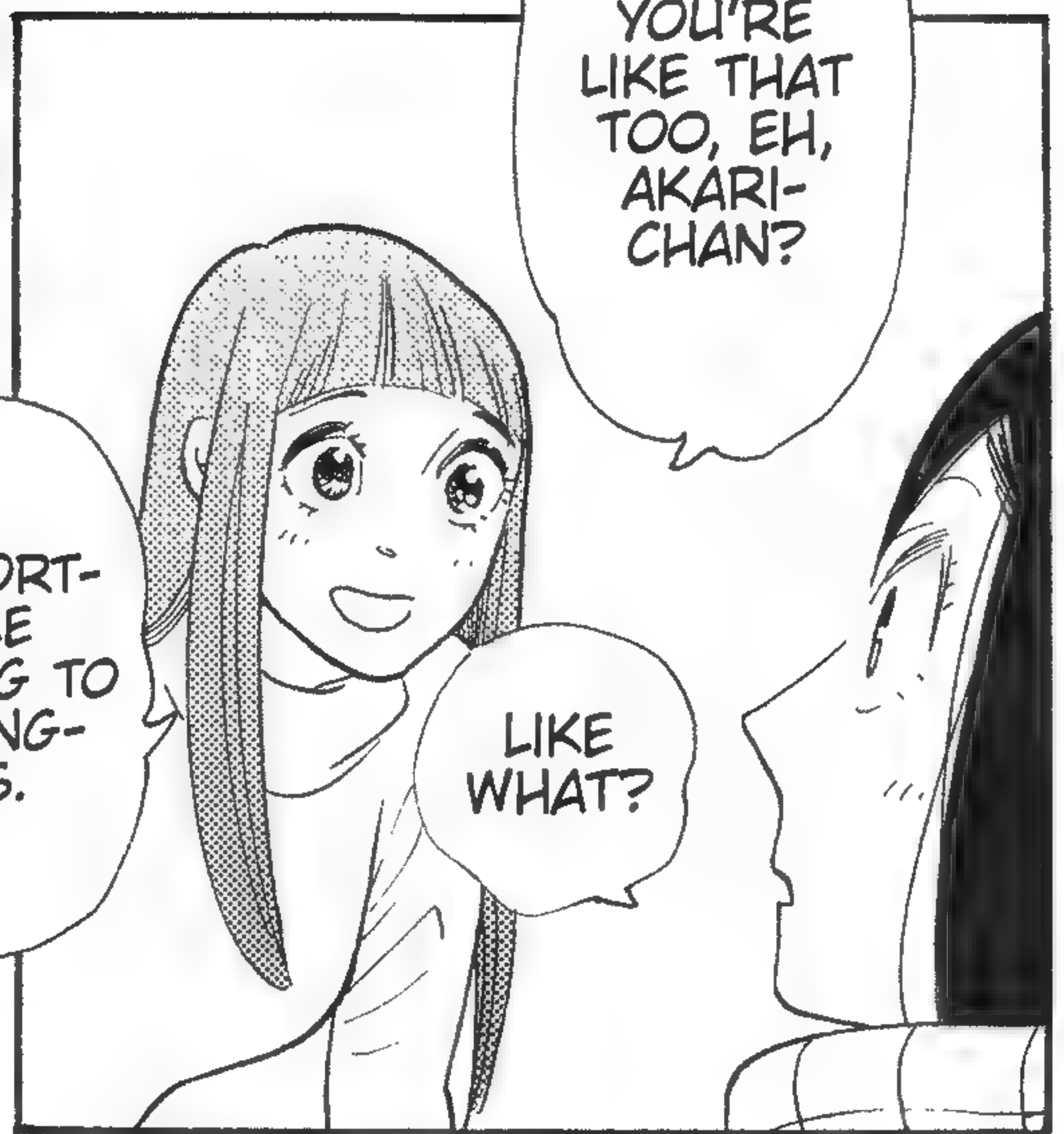
I USED  
TO BE  
SO  
SHY.



I...  
GUESS?

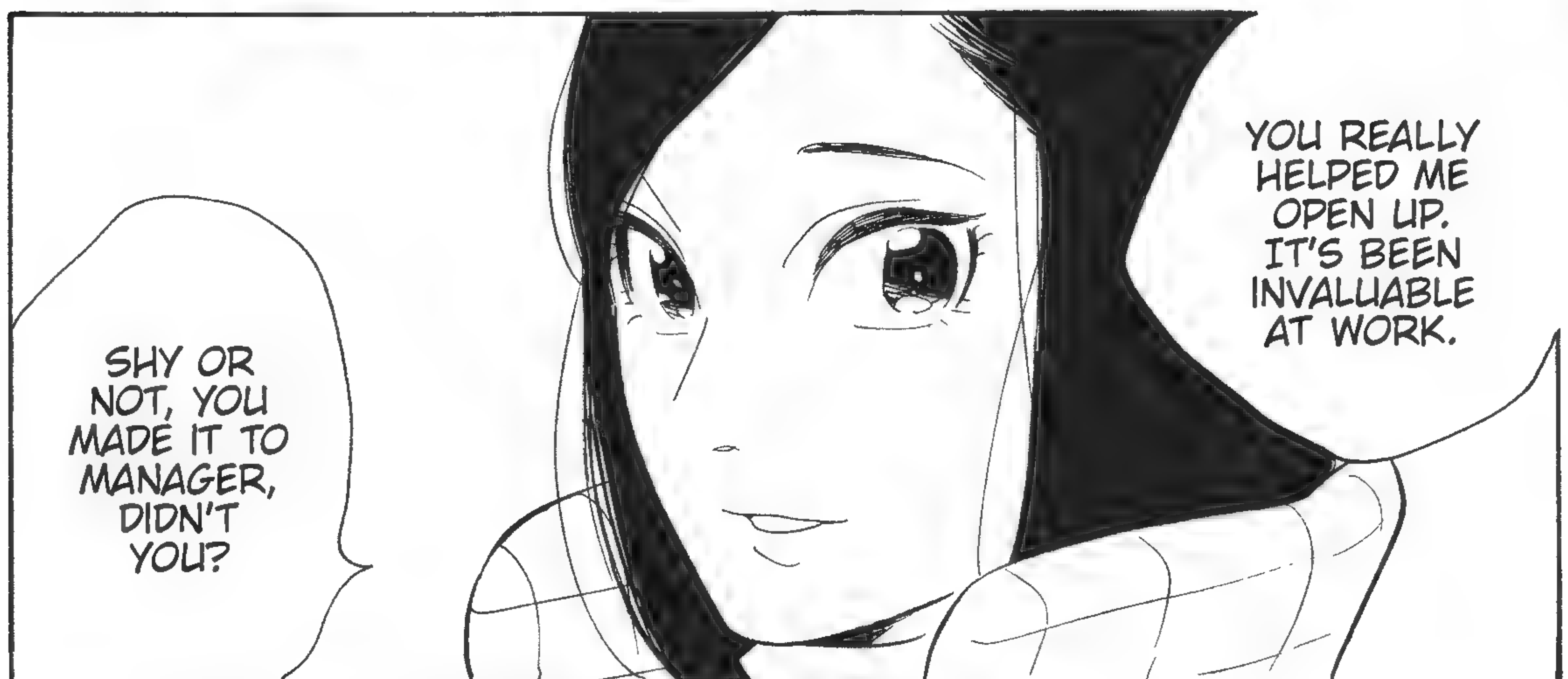
OHH.

COMFORT-  
ABLE  
TALKING TO  
STRANG-  
ERS.



YOU'RE  
LIKE THAT  
TOO, EH,  
AKARI-  
CHAN?

LIKE  
WHAT?



SHY OR  
NOT, YOU  
MADE IT TO  
MANAGER,  
DIDN'T  
YOU?

YOU REALLY  
HELPED ME  
OPEN UP.  
IT'S BEEN  
INVALUABLE  
AT WORK.



BUT I  
WORRY  
THAT DEEP  
DOWN, I'M  
NOT GOOD  
WITH  
PEOPLE.



YOU GOT  
MARRIED, RAN  
A SALON, AND  
HAD A KID ALL  
AT ONCE.

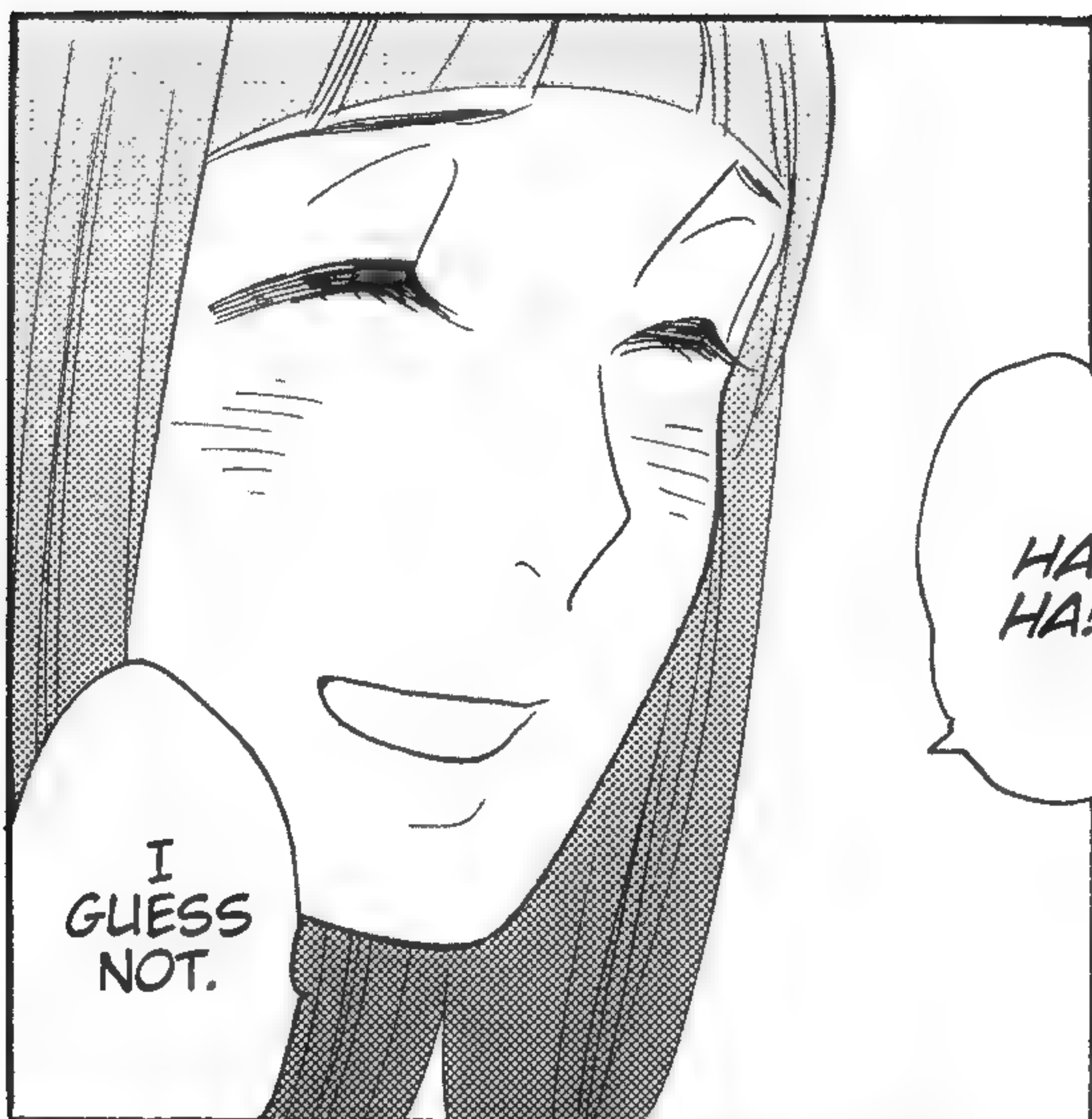
YEAH.  
BUT I  
BURNT  
OUT  
IN THE  
END.

YEAH.  
IT  
WAS A  
LOT.









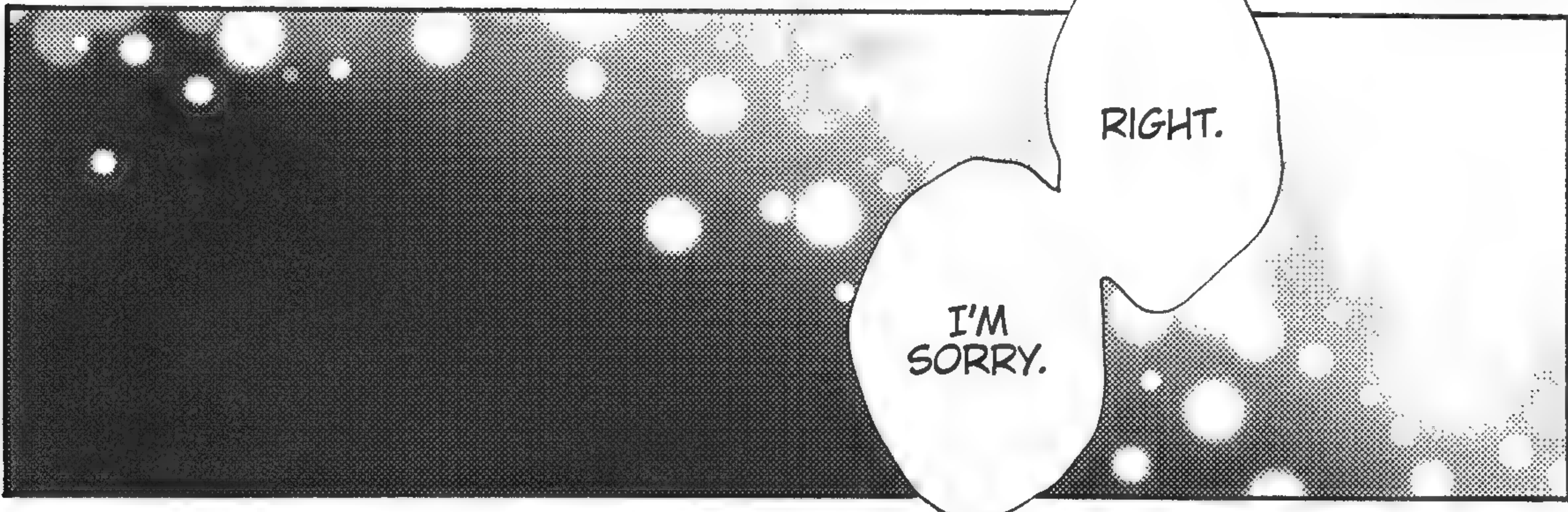
I  
GUESS  
NOT.



HA  
HA!



I'VE  
NEVER  
BEEN  
MARRIED  
MYSELF,  
SO I  
WOULDN'T  
KNOW.



RIGHT.

I'M  
SORRY.

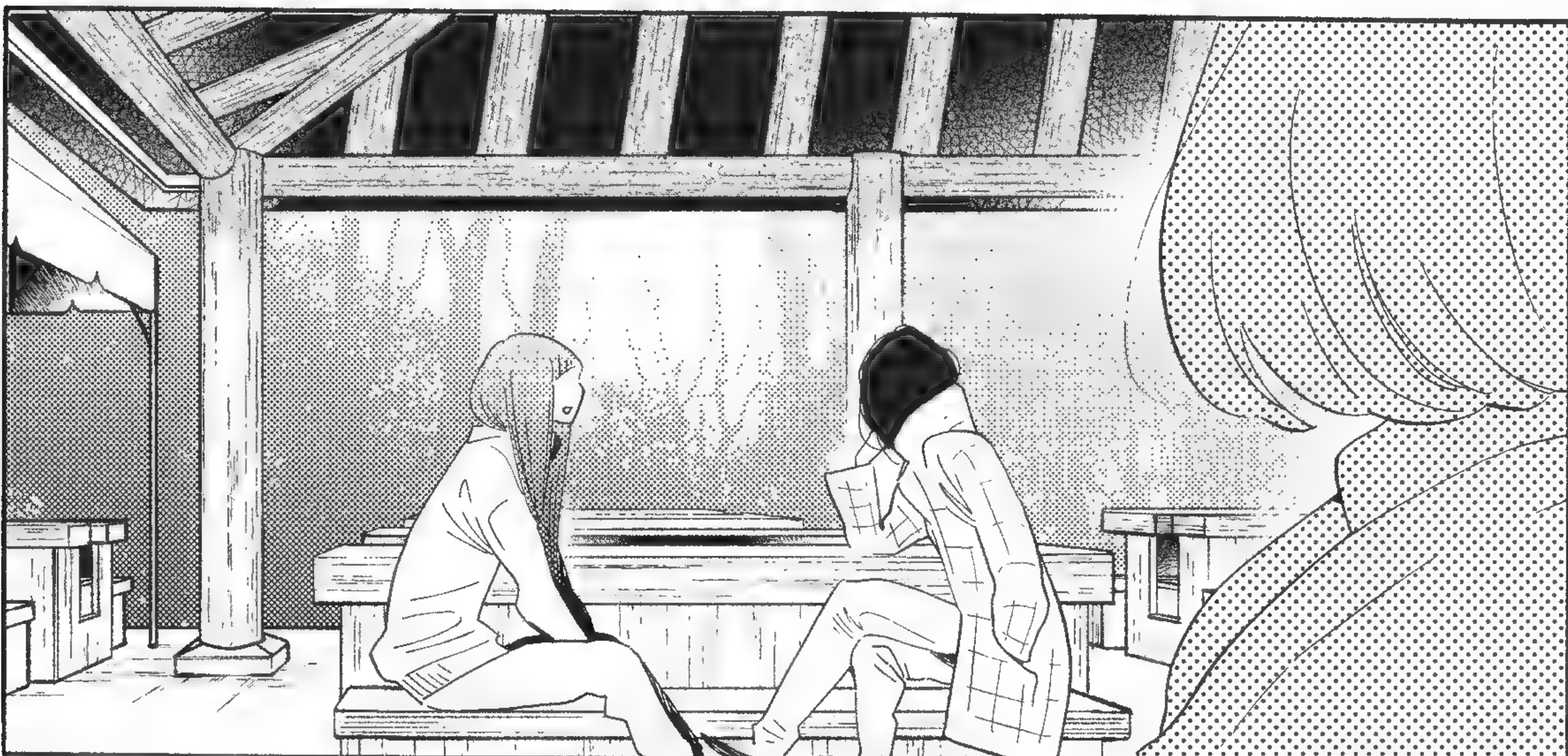
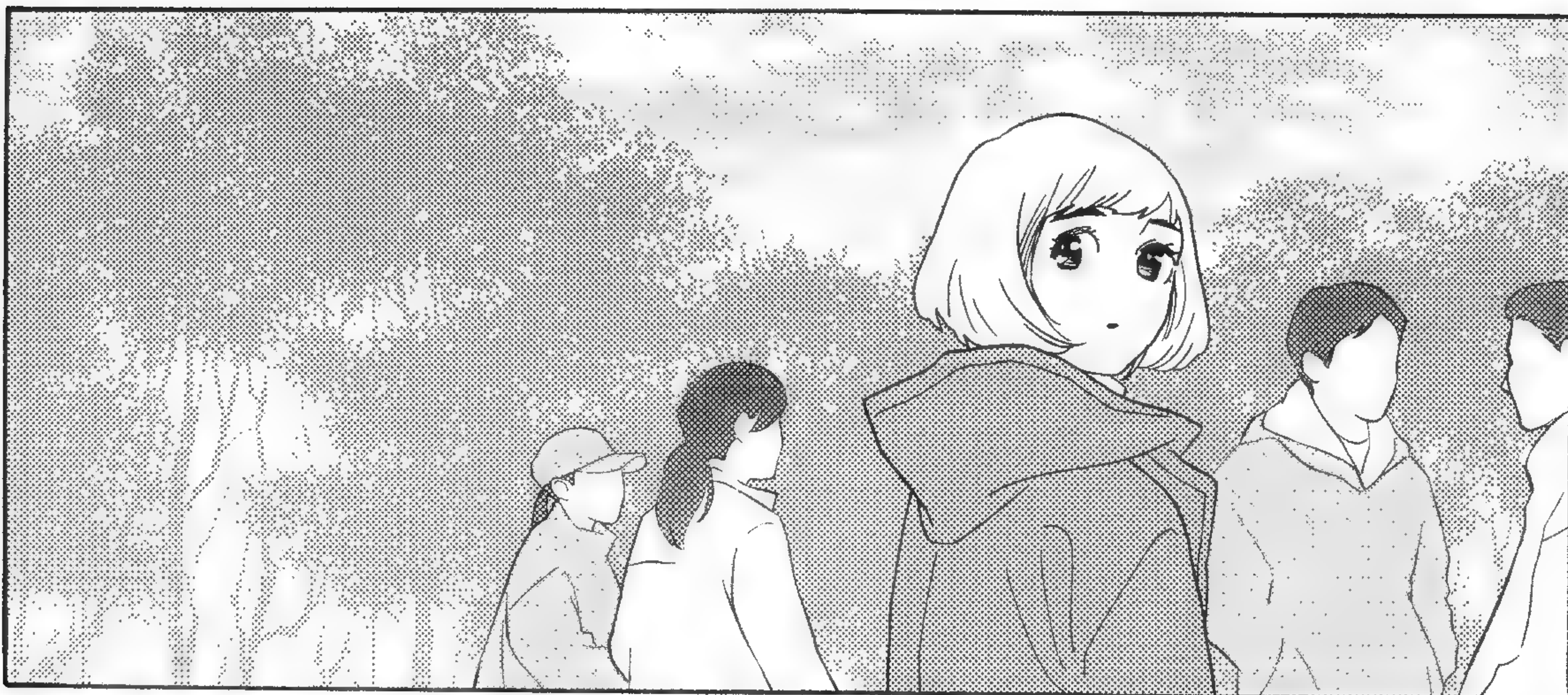


I'M DOING MY BEST  
TO BE THE WISE  
ADULT, TEACHING MAI  
THE WAYS OF THE  
WORLD. BUT I FEEL  
LIKE A FRAUD.



WEIRD,  
ISN'T  
IT?





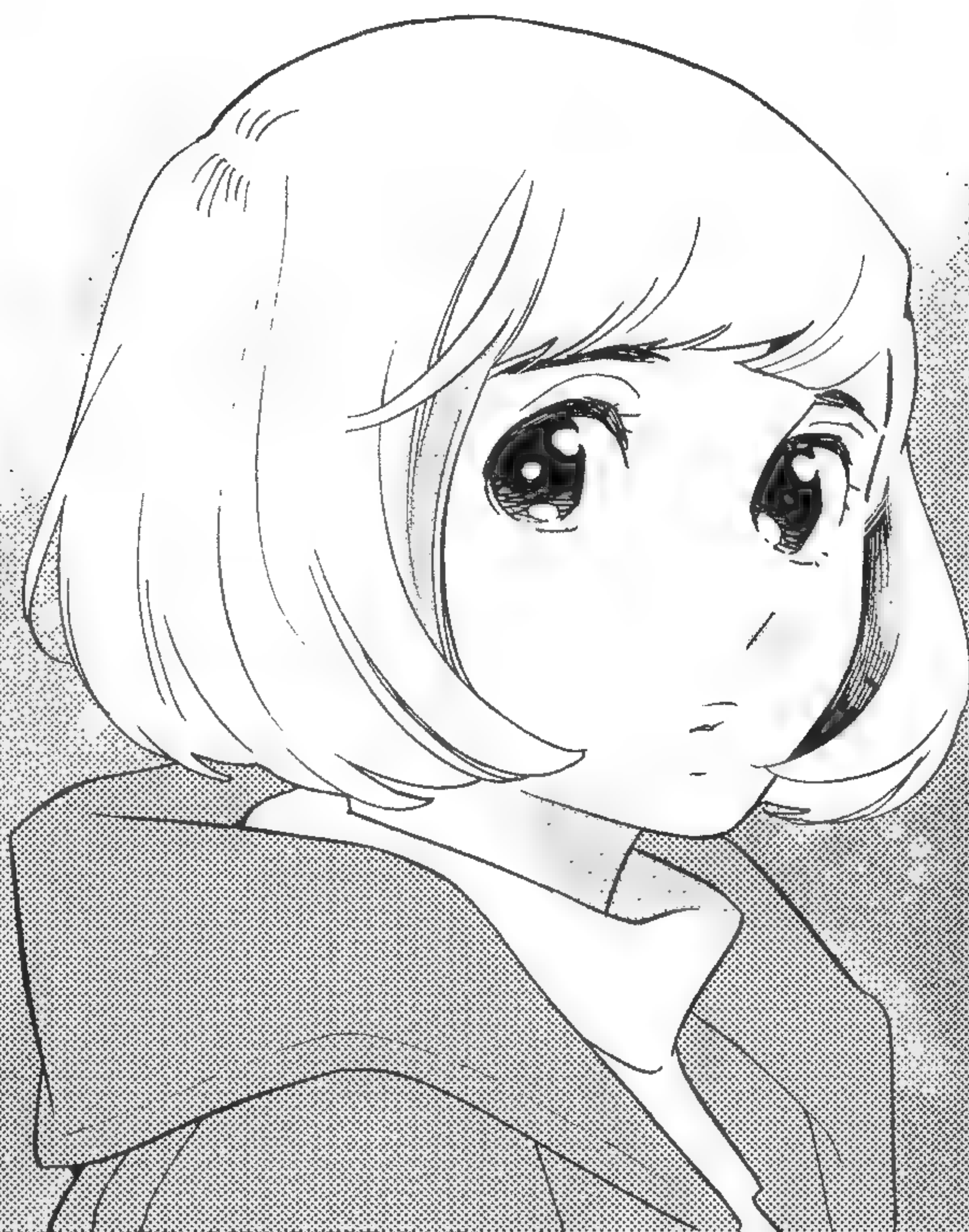
"I'VE  
HAD A FEW  
RELATIONSHIPS  
LIKE THIS.  
IT'S A PAIN.

"ACTUALLY,  
IF I'M BEING  
HONEST...

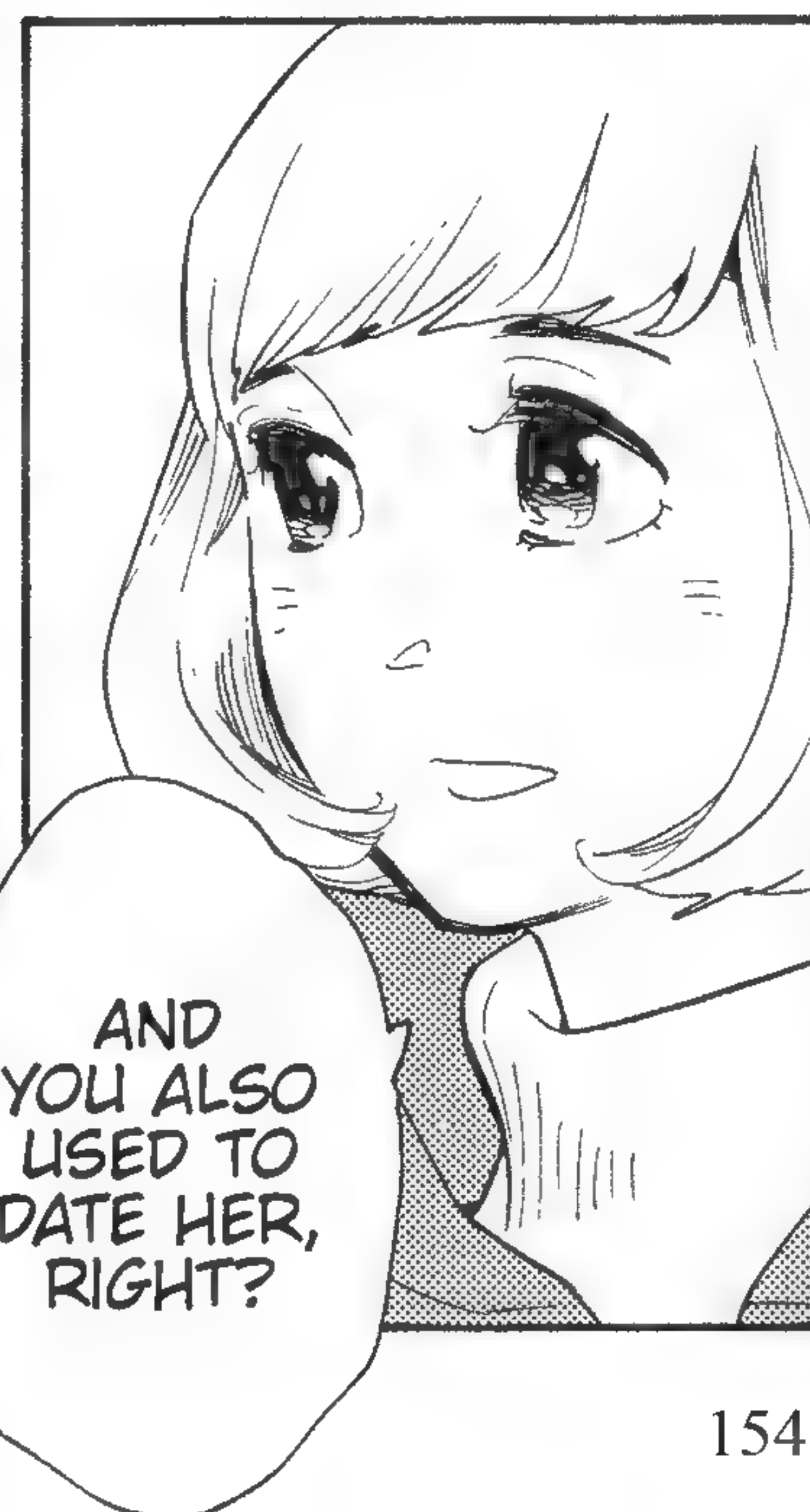
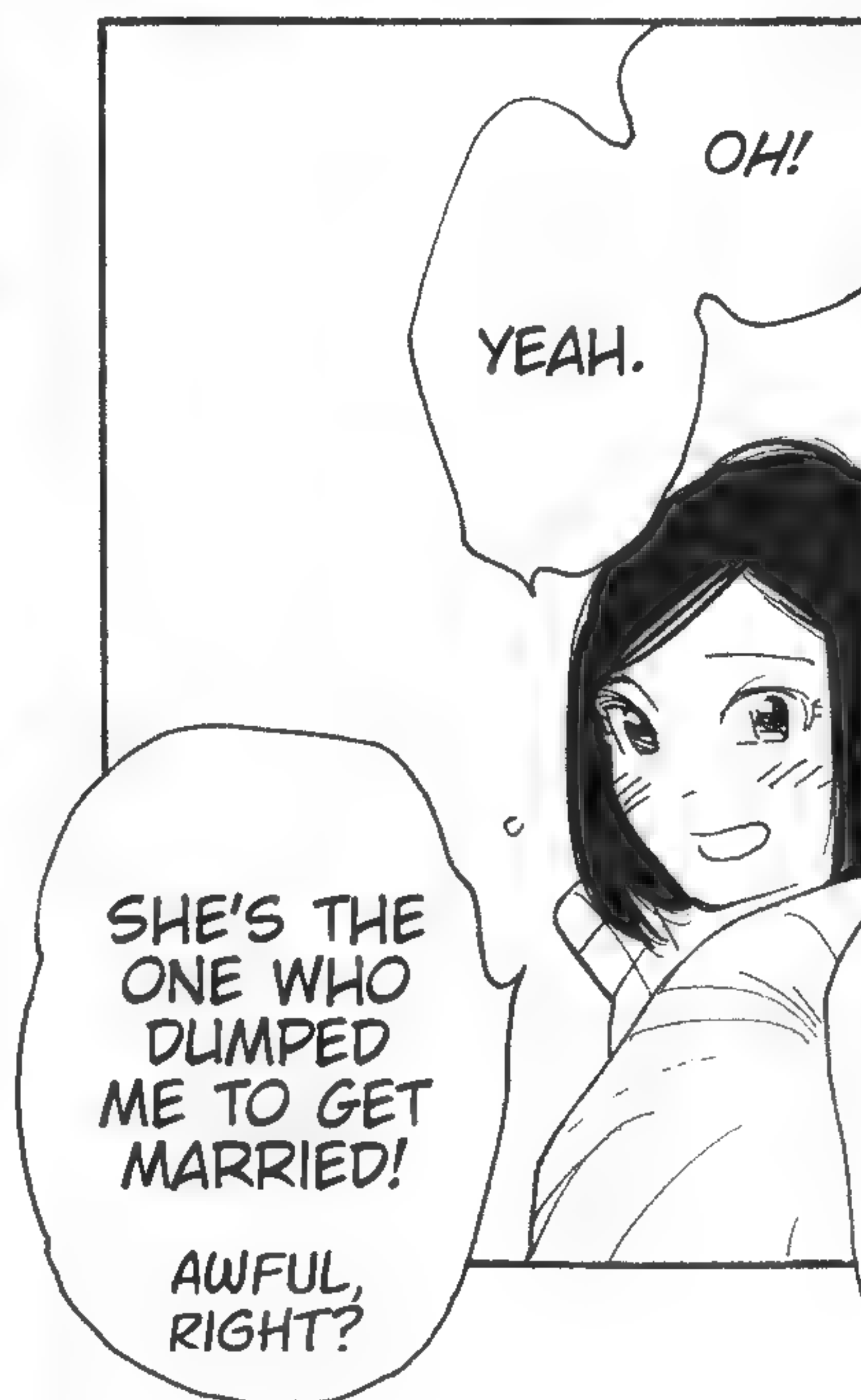
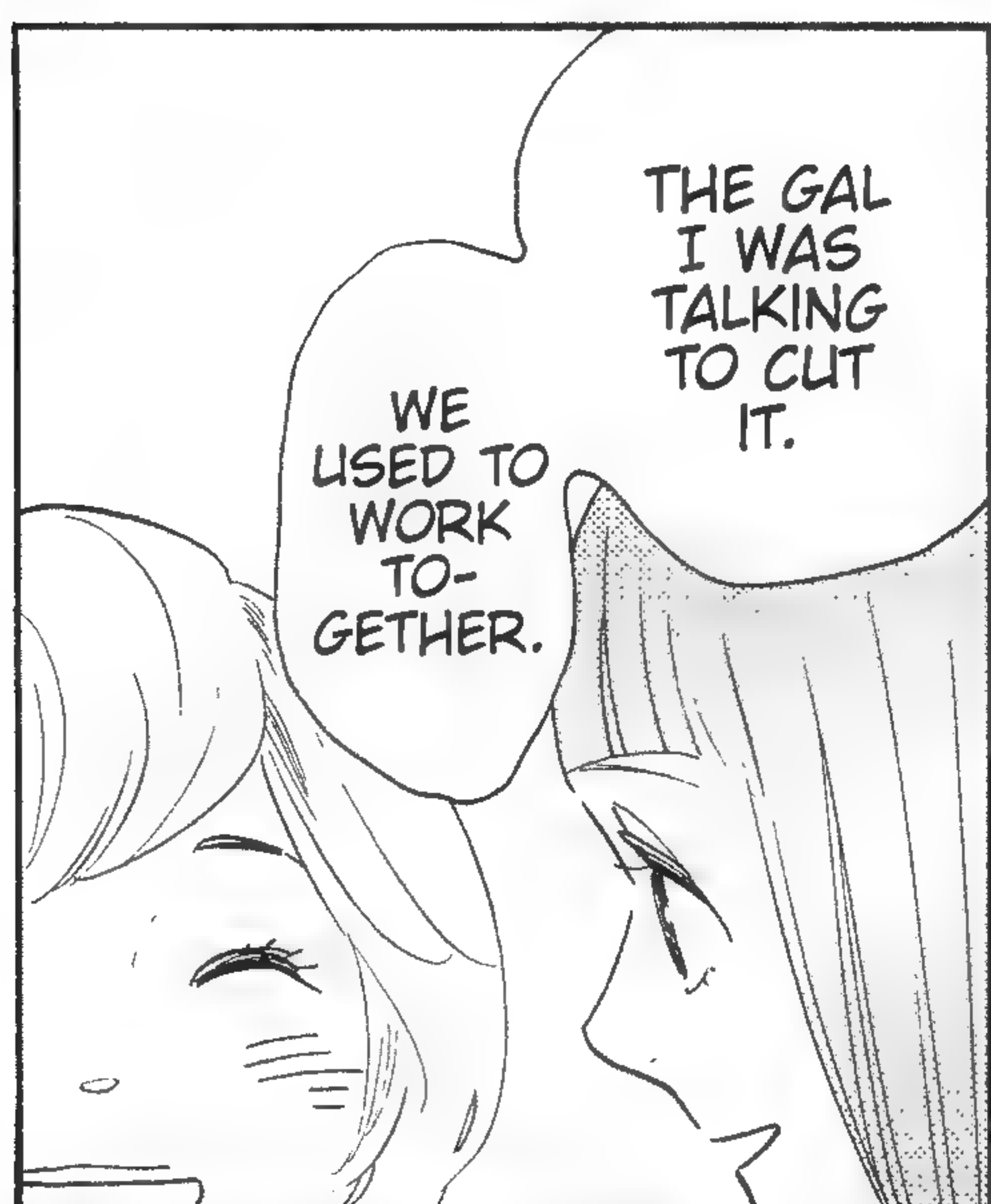
"ALL MY PAST  
RELATIONSHIPS  
HAVE BEEN  
MESSY.



"I'M  
TIRED  
OF IT."











NO...  
I CAN  
TELL.  
IT IS.



MAYBE  
THAT'S  
HER.

IT  
MIGHT  
NOT  
BE.



AND...  
REAL  
PRETTY,  
TO  
BOOT.

SHE'S  
MORE  
FEMININE  
THAN I  
EXPECTED.

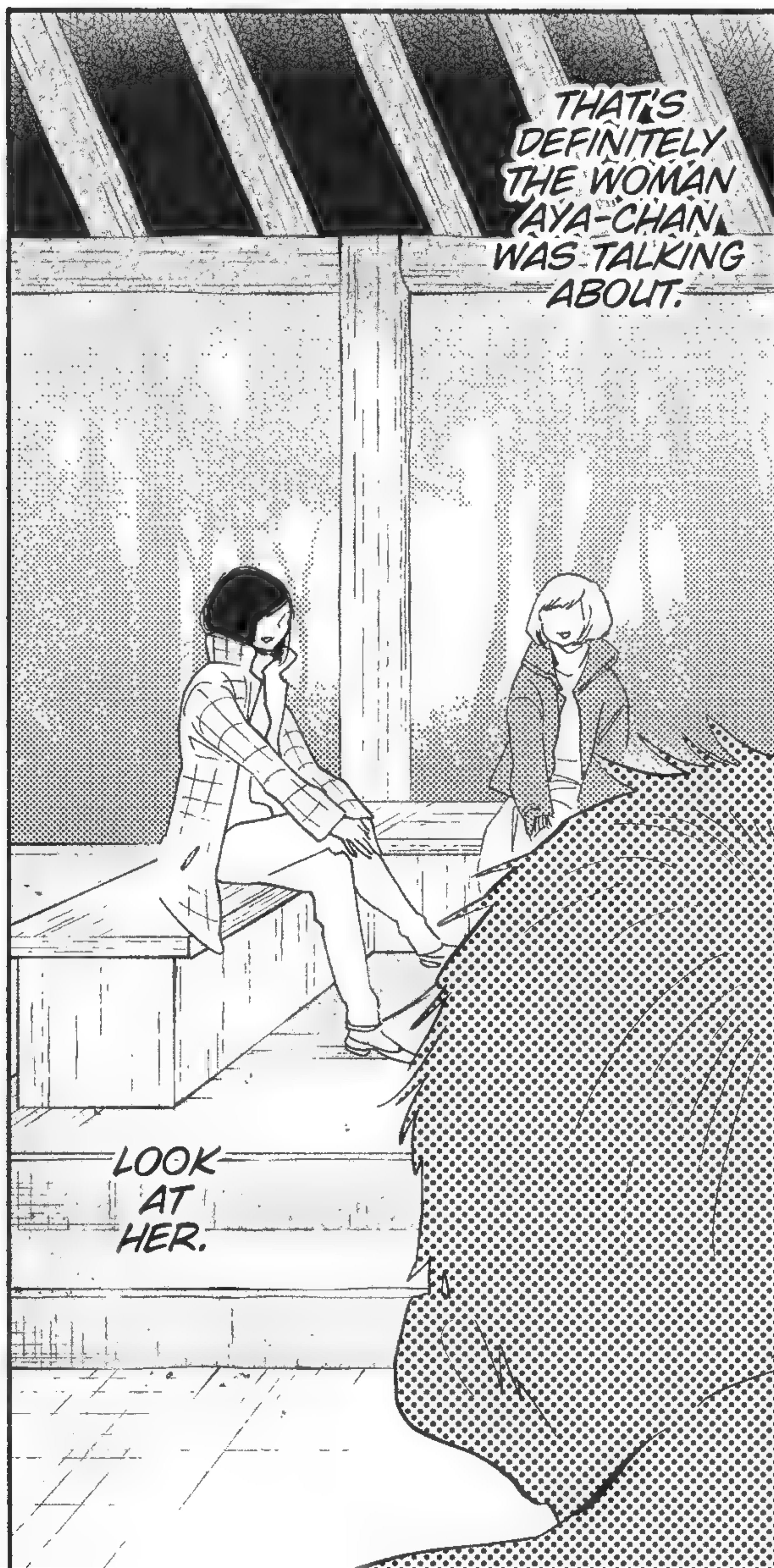
WAIT.

I...



WHY DID  
I EVEN  
COME  
HERE?

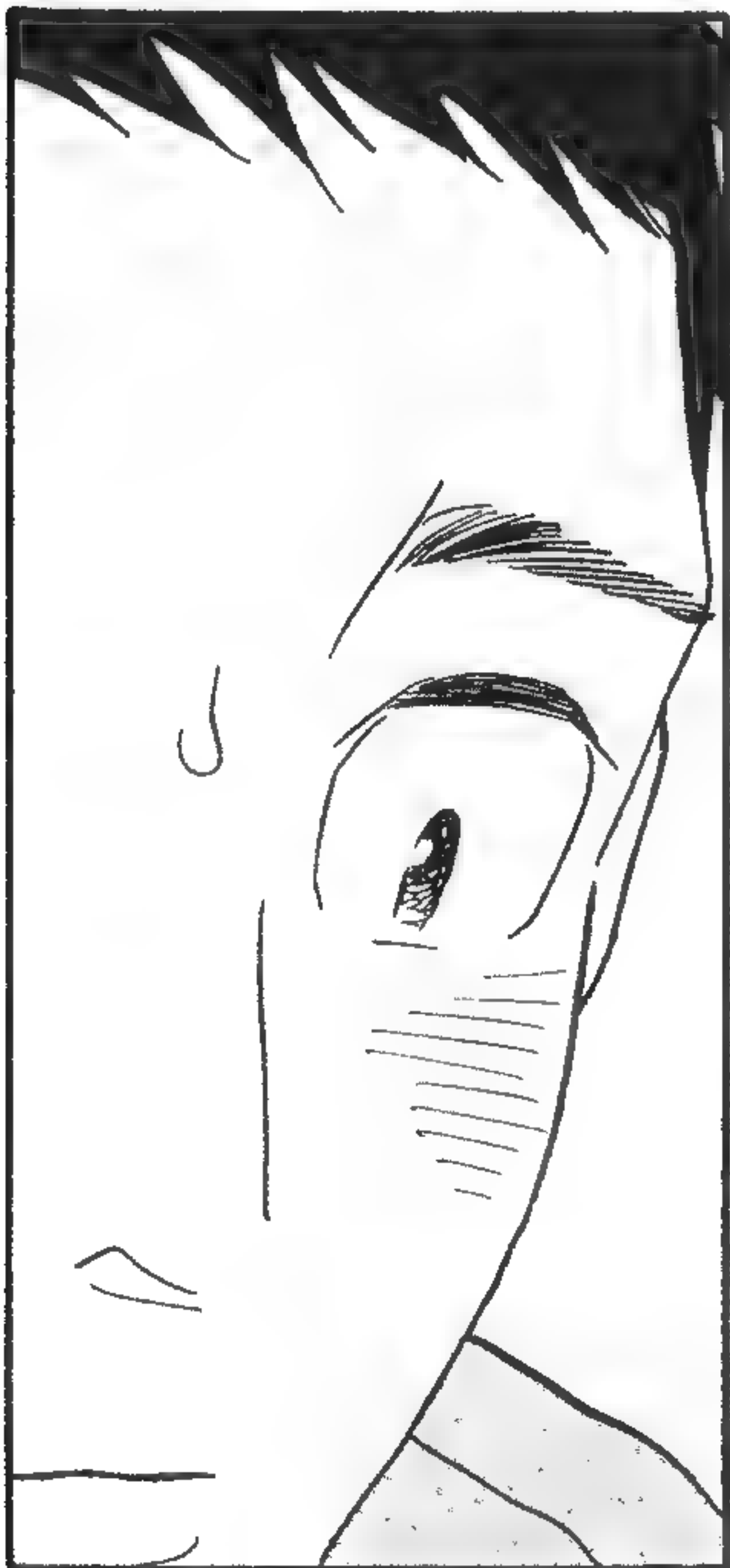
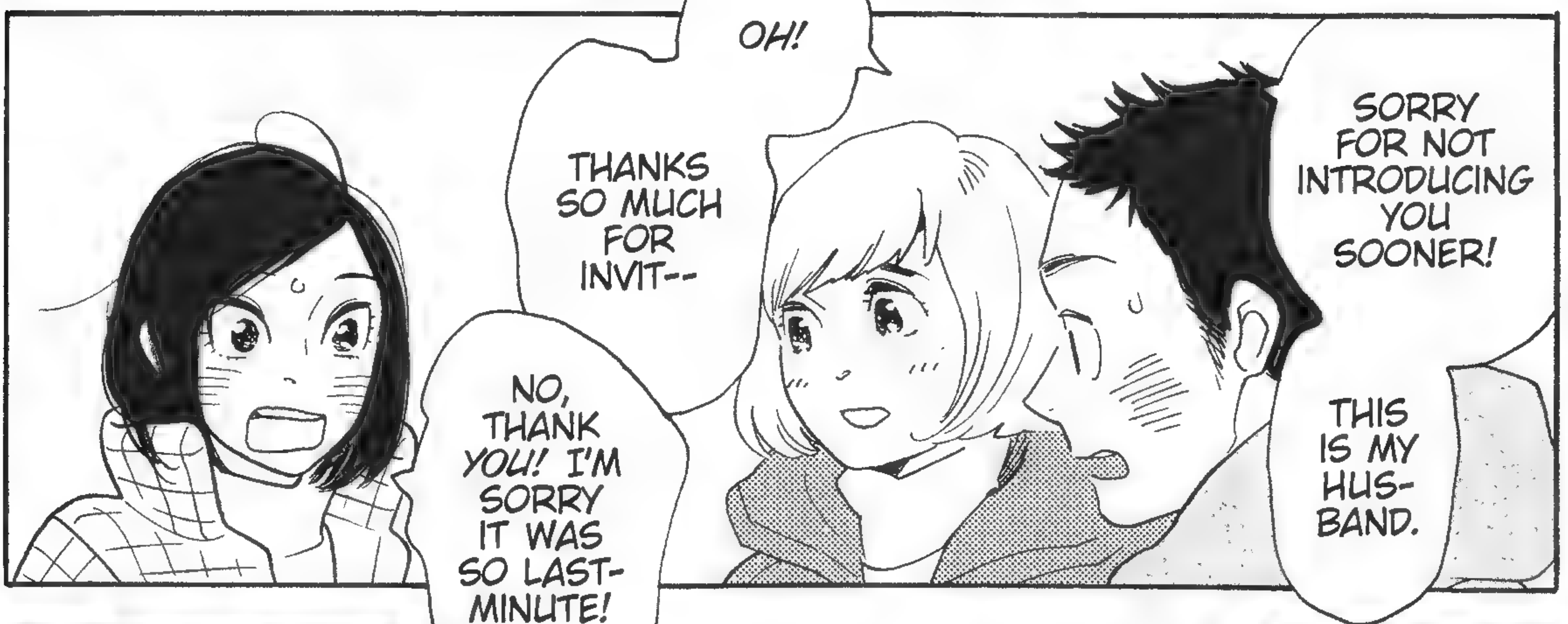
AND WHY  
DID YOU  
COME HERE,  
AYA-CHAN?  
WHAT WERE  
YOU HOPING  
WOULD  
HAPPEN?



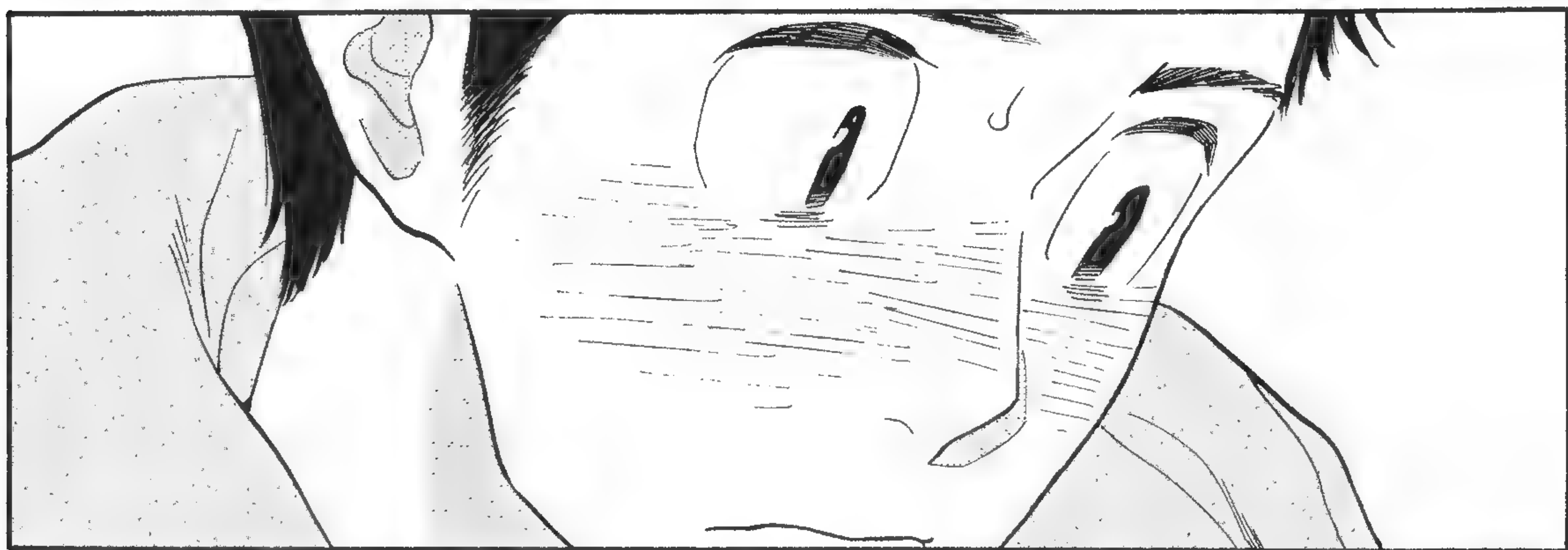
THAT'S  
DEFINITELY  
THE WOMAN  
AYA-CHAN  
WAS TALKING  
ABOUT.

LOOK  
AT  
HER.







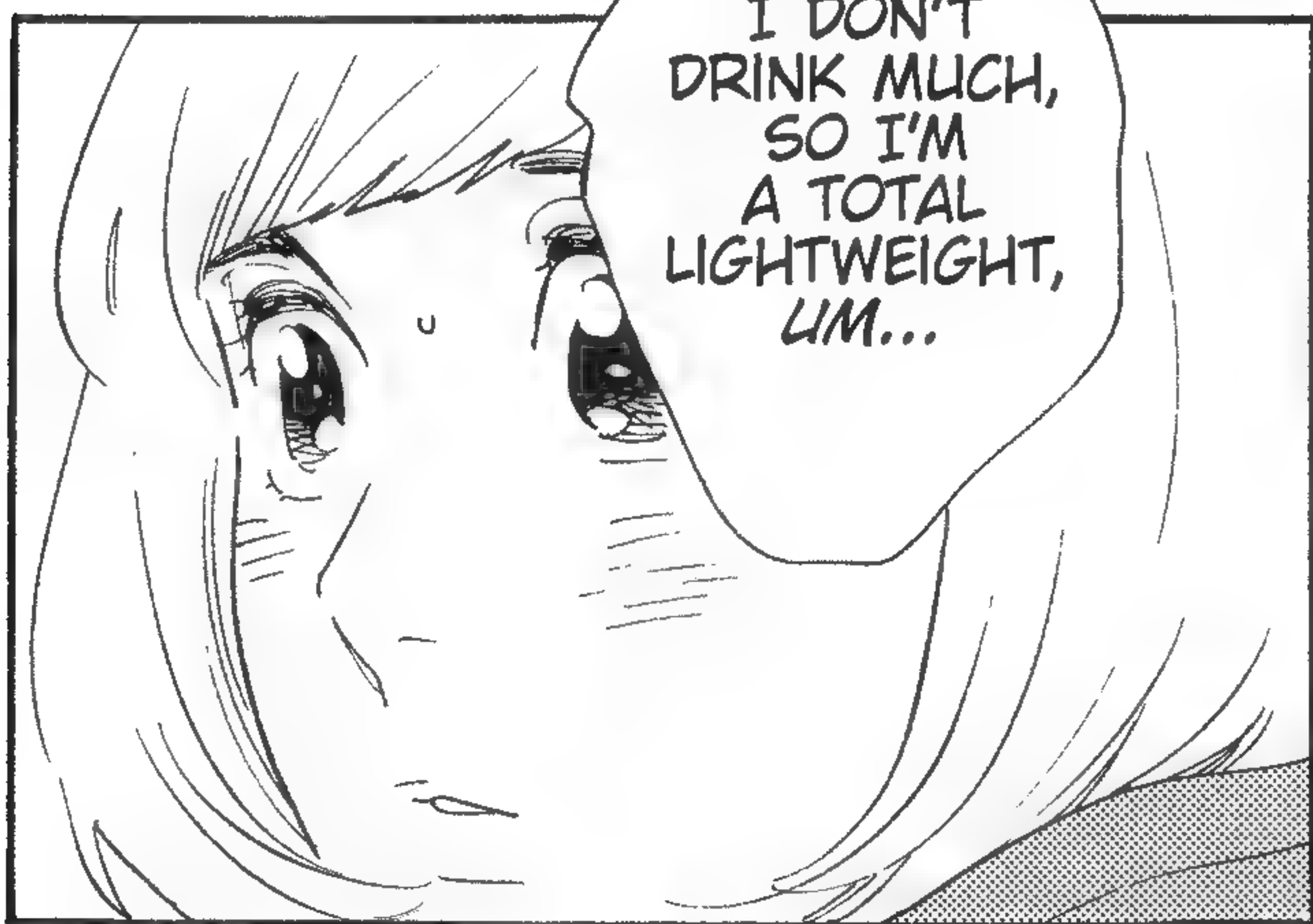






I'M--ER--  
I DON'T  
EVEN KNOW  
WHAT I'M  
SAYING  
HERE. I'M  
SORRY!

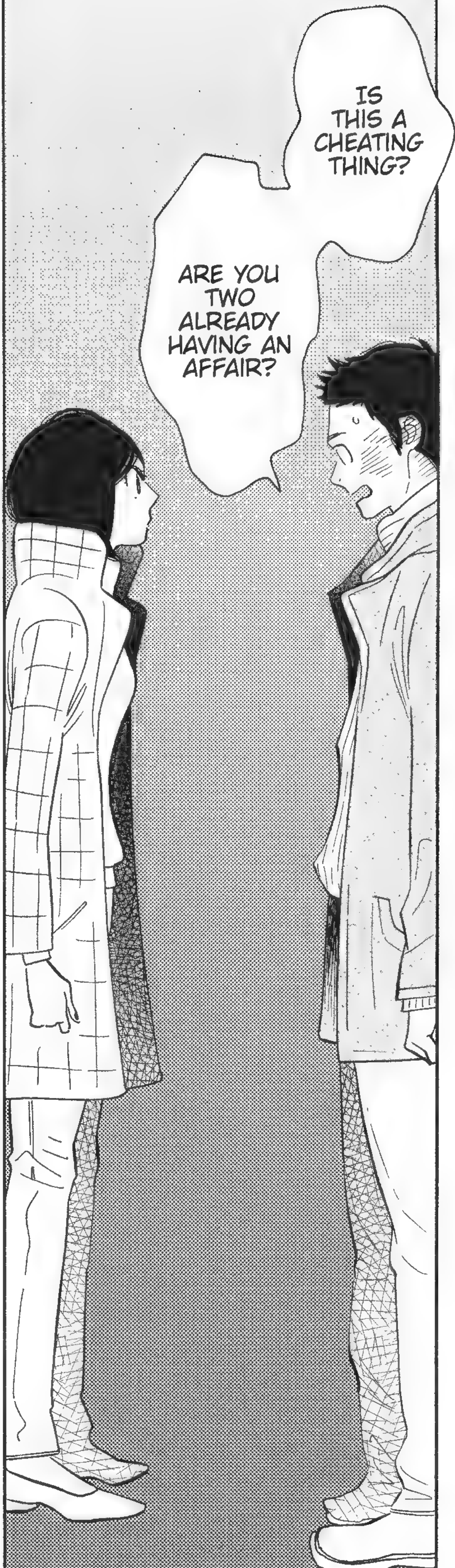
I THINK  
I'M A  
LITTLE  
DRUNK!



I DON'T  
DRINK MUCH,  
SO I'M  
A TOTAL  
LIGHTWEIGHT,  
UM...



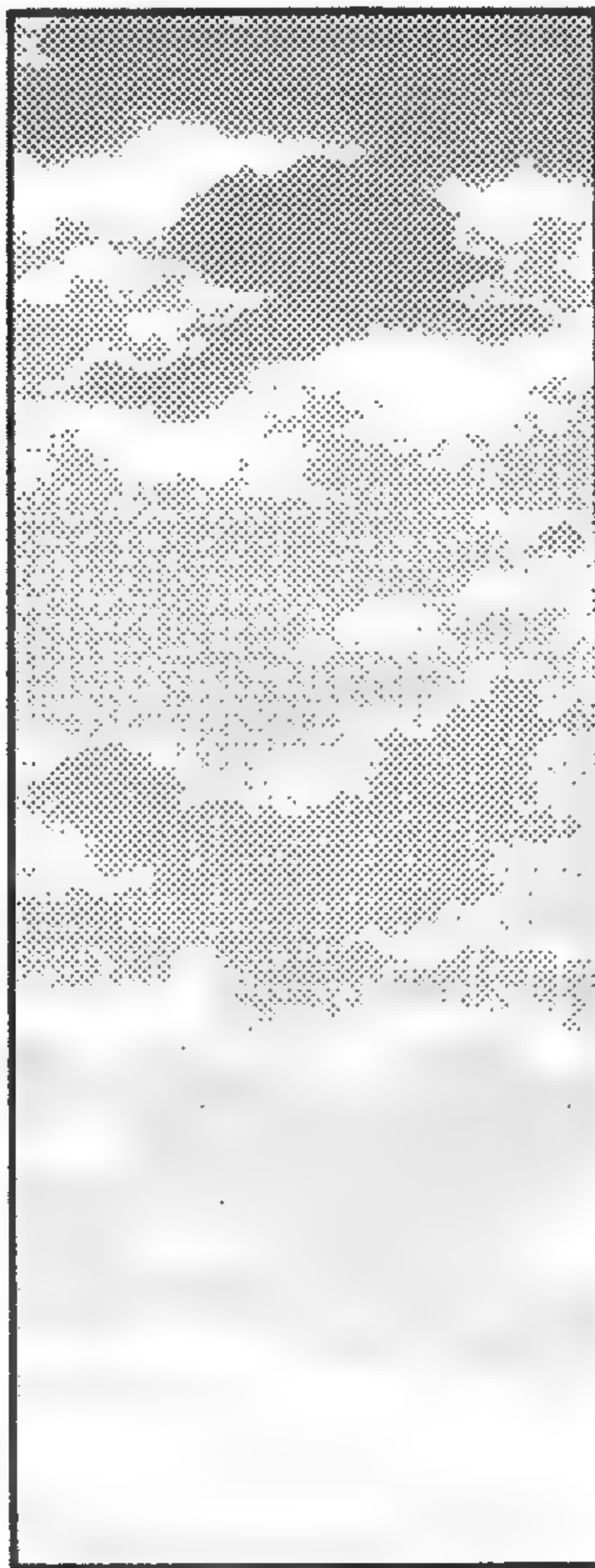
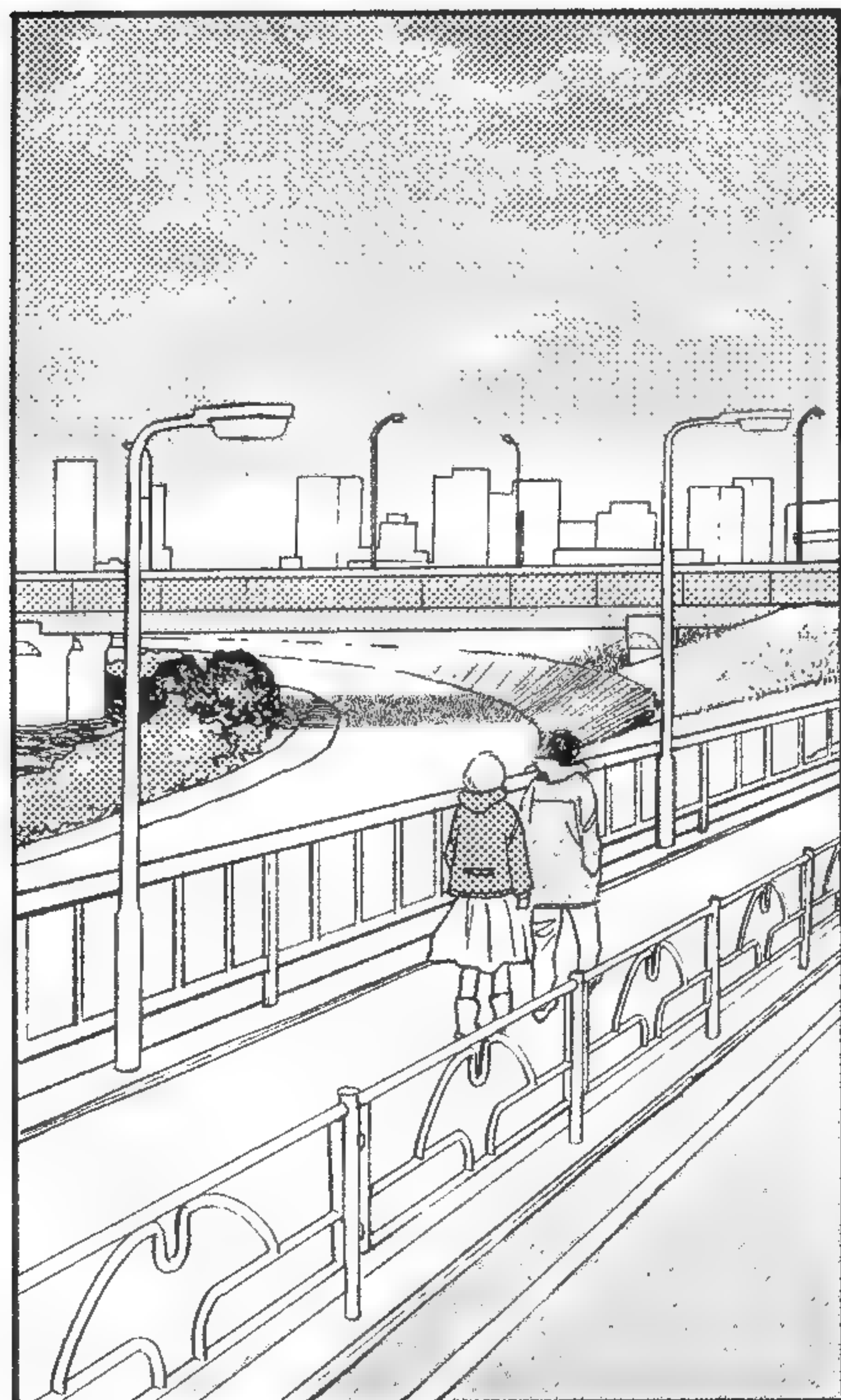
SO, DO  
YOU LIKE  
HER BACK  
OR WHAT?



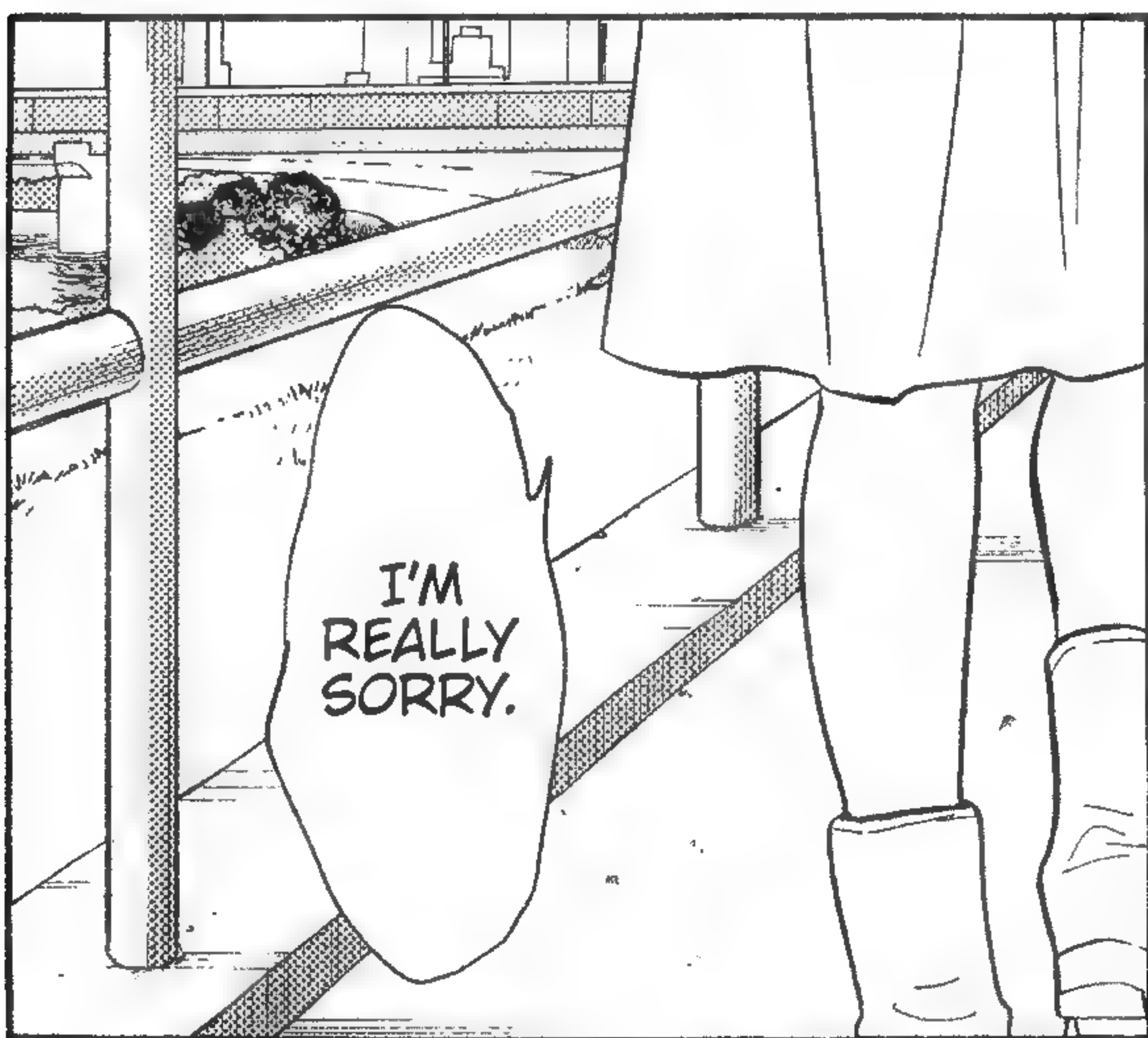
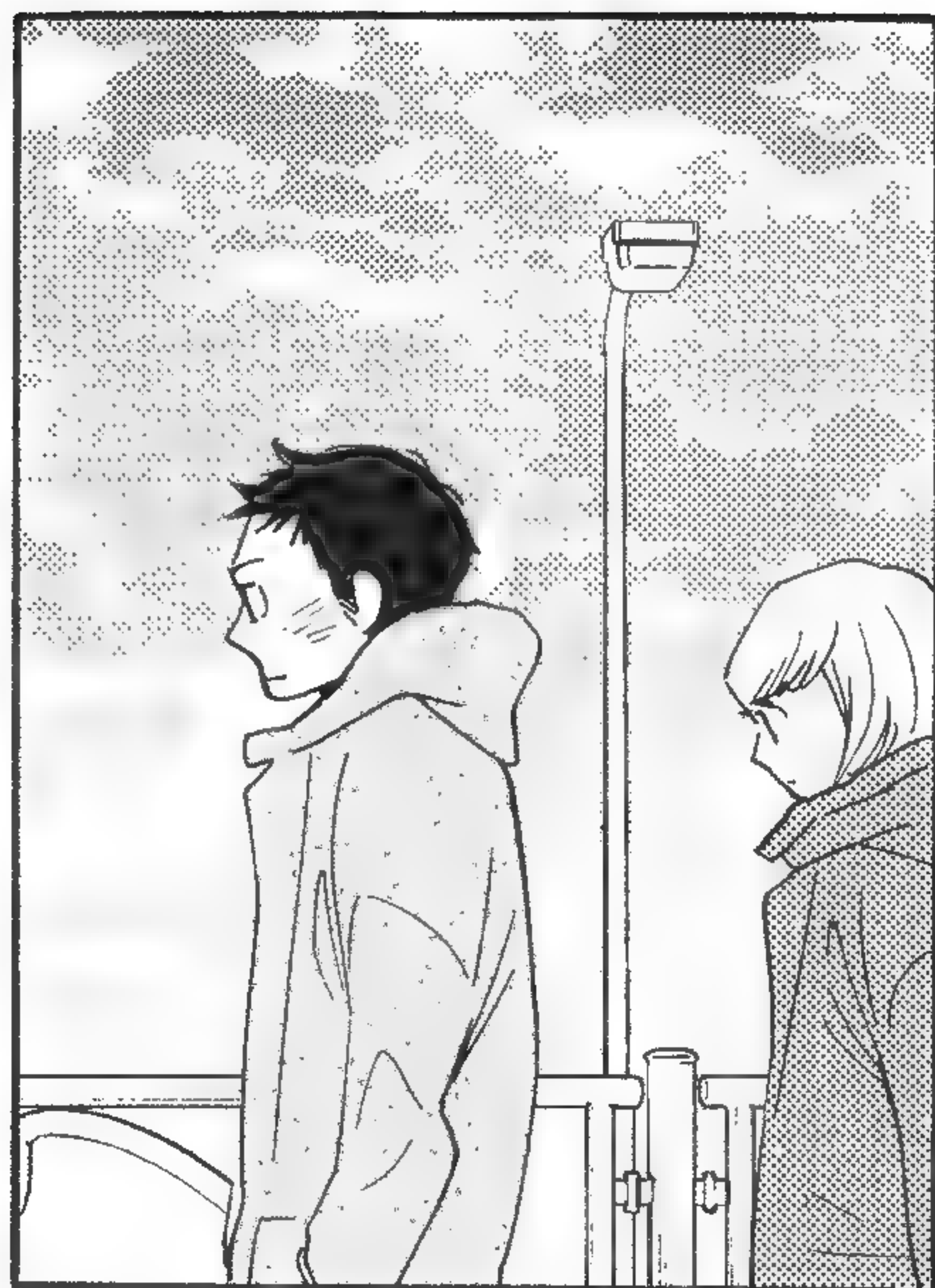
IS  
THIS A  
CHEATING  
THING?

ARE YOU  
TWO  
ALREADY  
HAVING AN  
AFFAIR?













I WANTED  
TO SPEND  
THE REST  
OF MY LIFE  
WITH YOU.

HERE'S  
WHERE  
I'M AT...



BUT I  
GUESS IT'S...  
NOT THE  
SAME FOR  
YOU.

WHY DID  
YOU SAY  
SOMETHING  
IN THE FIRST  
PLACE?



THIS  
IS SO  
STUPID,  
AYA-  
CHAN...

THERE'S A  
CHANCE IT'S  
ONE-SIDED.  
BUT THAT STILL  
MEANS AYA IS  
UNHAPPY.







EVEN THOUGH  
WE'RE ADULTS

THIS IS JUST  
A PLAIN OLD  
MANJU BUN.

TAKAKO  
SHIMURA  
HERE.  
IT'S  
BEEN A  
WHILE!

BUT I  
CAN'T  
EAT  
ANKO  
PASTE...

BUT THEN WHY  
MANJU... DANGO?  
MANJU?



HELLO KITTY  
HERSELF  
ALSO SPOKE  
PASSIONATELY  
ABOUT SADOU  
ON THE OFFICIAL  
YOUTUBE  
CHANNEL.

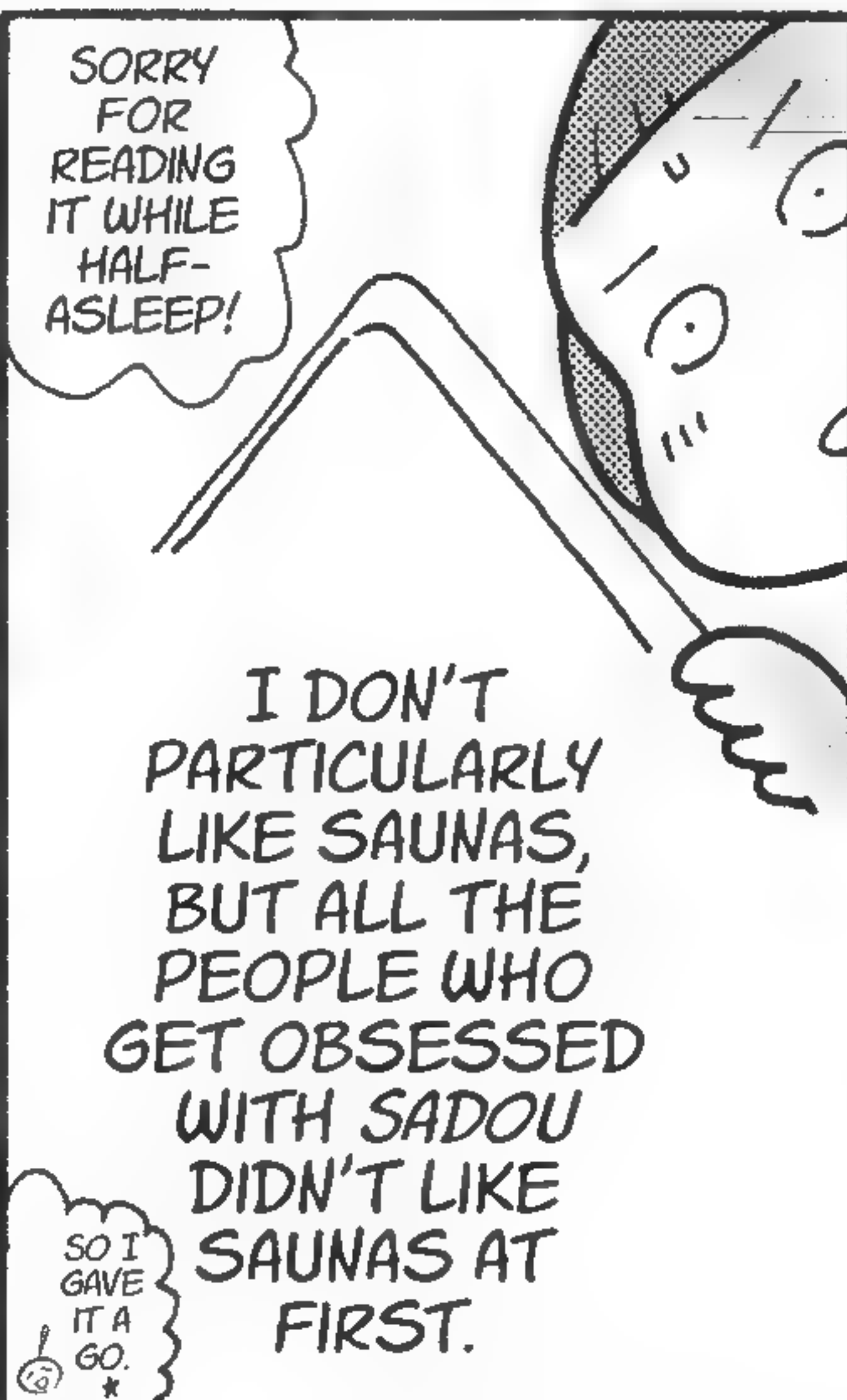
I'D  
HEARD  
IT WAS  
MOSTLY  
OLD GUYS  
THERE,  
KITTY!



SORRY  
FOR  
READING  
IT WHILE  
HALF-  
ASLEEP!

I DON'T  
PARTICULARLY  
LIKE SAUNAS,  
BUT ALL THE  
PEOPLE WHO  
GET OBSESSED  
WITH SADOU  
DIDN'T LIKE  
SAUNAS AT  
FIRST.

SO I  
GAVE  
IT A  
GO.



ONE  
DAY, I WAS  
READING  
TANAKA  
KATSUKI-  
SAN'S  
MANGA  
SADOU...

ALL THE IDEAS  
RELATED  
TO SAUNAS  
THAT TANAKA  
KATSUKI-SAN  
TALKS ABOUT  
IN THE SERIES  
MANGA SADOU.



What's  
"sadou"?

WELL-  
REGU-  
LATED!

THAT...

IT FELT GREAT!  
HOWEVER! ON  
MY WAY HOME, MY  
BACK PAIN GOT  
WORSE, AND THE  
GOOD VIBES  
VANISHED.

EXPERI-  
ENCE IS  
SOMETHING  
I'D LIKE TO  
TRY! HAVE  
FAITH THAT I  
WILL BE ABLE  
TO BRING  
YOU SOME  
MORE INFO  
BY VOLUME  
TWO.

EVEN THOUGH WE'RE ADULTS  
HAS ONLY JUST STARTED,  
BUT I HOPE YOU'LL STAY  
WITH IT!



REPORT

I DIDN'T REALLY  
FEEL LIKE GETTING  
INTO THE COLD BATH,  
BUT I MANAGED IT  
SURPRISINGLY  
EASILY.

OH!



CARE-  
FUL!  
YOU  
WASH UP  
AT THE  
SHOWER  
IN FRONT  
OF THE  
COLD BATH.  
YOU  
REPEAT  
THIS  
HOWEVER  
MANY  
TIMES  
YOU  
LIKE.  
SAUNA  
↓  
COLD BATH

I WENT  
IMMEDI-  
ATELY  
TO THE  
LOCAL  
ONSEN  
AND SAT  
THERE  
FOR FIVE  
MINUTES.



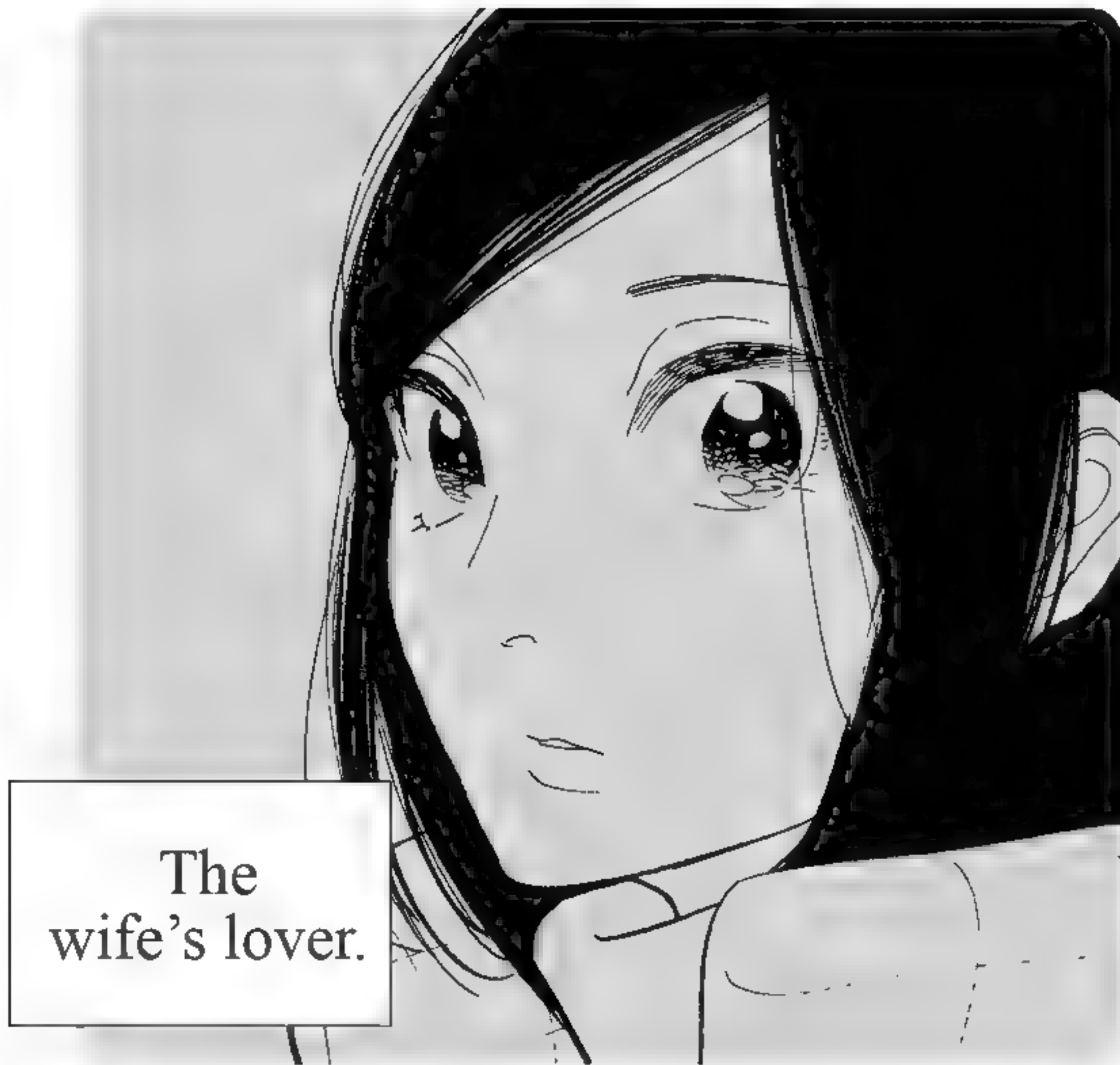
I WORRIED THAT  
MY VISIT WAS TOO  
SHORT, BUT FOR  
SOMEONE WHO  
DOESN'T SAUNA,  
IT'S A LOT.

TO BE  
CONTINUED!

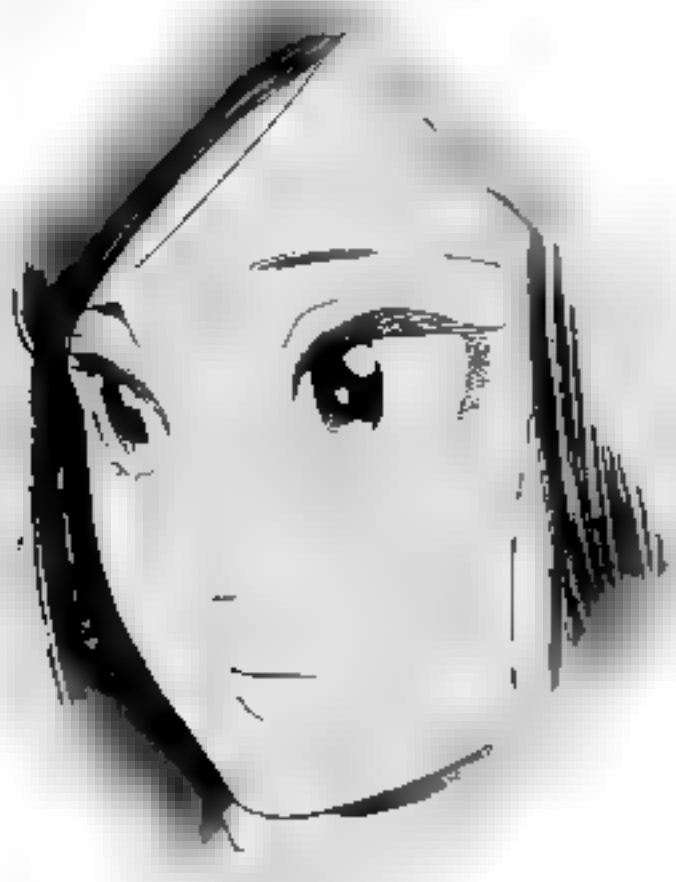
THANKS TO O-KURA-SAN, S-MOTO-SAN, ISHIDEDEN-SAN, ASO KUMA-SAN, EVERYONE AT KOHEI  
NAWATA DESIGN OFFICE, O-MURA-JOSHI, AND ALL YOU READERS!! (SHIMURA TAKAKO)



# *Next issue...*







And  
can't...

*An  
adult love  
triangle.*

go  
back.



*Even Though We're Adults 2*

On sale soon!











SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

# Even Though We're Adults

story and art by **TAKAKO SHIMURA**

**VOLUME 1**

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EVEN THOUGH WE'RE ADULTS VOLUME 1

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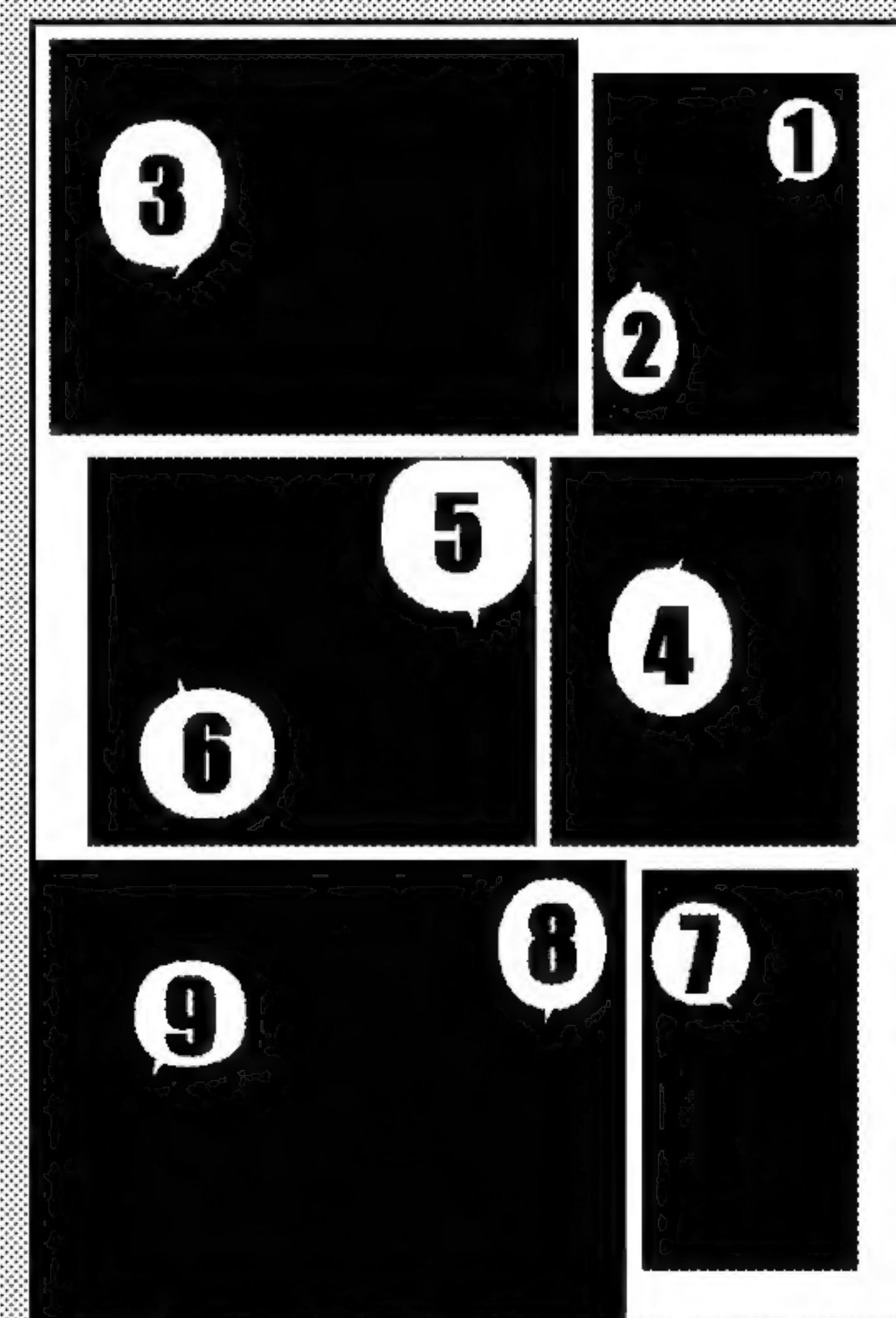
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## READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!







**A**yano, an elementary school teacher in her thirties, stops by a bar one day and meets another woman named Akari. Sparks fly as the two chat, and before the night is over, Ayano even goes in for a kiss. Akari is intrigued but confused... especially when she discovers that Ayano has a husband! Both Ayano and Akari are about to find out that love doesn't get any easier, even as you grow older.

From the critically acclaimed  
creator of *Sweet Blue Flowers*  
and *Wandering Son*.

TEEN

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